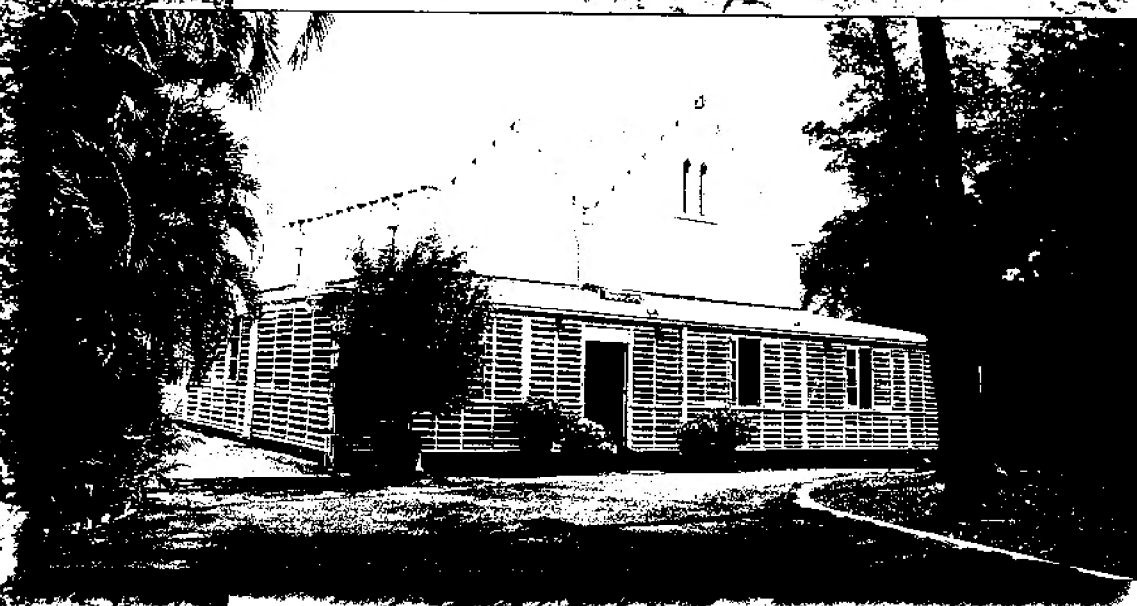




# NORTHERN TERRITORY *in focus*



**1996**



# **NORTHERN TERRITORY IN FOCUS 1996**

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Statistician, Northern Territory

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

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**COVER:**

**Government House, Darwin, Northern Territory**

Government House is the residence of the Administrator of the Northern Territory and is the centre of royal and state visitors. It is also used for functions for patronages, local charities and other organisations.

Built in 1879, the building was damaged by cyclones in 1897, 1937 and 1974 and was subjected to enemy bombing in February 1942. In March 1996 the Northern Territory Government approved Government House for heritage protection.

**Photograph: Bert Wollmann**

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# PREFACE

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I have much pleasure in introducing Northern Territory in Focus 1996.

This edition, the 31st in the series originally titled the Northern Territory Statistical Summary, features some significant changes to its structure and content. I would like to thank readers for their input and suggested changes and encourage you to write to me with further comments.

Some of the highlights of this 1996 edition include:

- a broader coverage of topics, including two new chapters ('Income and Welfare' and 'Health');
- a large number of special articles, including articles on defence, food consumption, smoking behaviour and attitudes, the cost of living in Darwin and trade with the East ASEAN Growth Area; and
- the addition of a 'Further Reading' section at the end of each chapter.

The Historical Overview chapter has also been edited to reflect a more concise overview of events.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to those organisations which have kindly supplied material for inclusion in *Northern Territory in Focus 1996* and to those officers involved in its preparation.

BOB HARRISON  
Statistician, Northern Territory

September 1996

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Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications, including *Northern Territory in Focus*, draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The ABS wishes to thank the following organisations for their cooperation and input into *Northern Territory in Focus 1996*:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
- Australian Defence Force Northern Command
- AUSTROADS
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Bureau of Tourism Research
- Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesia
- CSIRO Australia
- Darwin City Council
- Darwin Port Authority
- Defence Housing Authority
- Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
- Department of Housing and Regional Development
- Department of Social Security
- Department of Transport
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Northern Territory Tourist Commission
- Northern Territory University
- NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry
- NT Department of Correctional Services
- NT Department of Education
- NT Department of Housing and Local Government
- NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
- NT Department of Mines and Energy
- NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
- NT Department of Transport and Works
- NT Employment and Training Authority
- NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- NT Work Health Authority
- Office of the Administrator of the Northern Territory
- Office of the Valuer-General, Northern Territory
- Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
- Power and Water Authority
- Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory
- Territory Health Services
- Trade Development Zone Authority

## FOR INQUIRIES ...

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*Northern Territory in Focus 1996* aims to provide a convenient overview of the Northern Territory. As a consequence, the statistics contained in this publication represent a relatively small part of the data available from the ABS.

If you require further information about any subject area covered in *Northern Territory in Focus 1996*, there are many other ABS publications which will interest you. All publications issued by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office. Some data are also available on electronic media. You may purchase ABS publications by telephone, visiting an ABS Bookshop or by subscribing to them to ensure delivery on a regular basis.

The ABS also offers a consultancy service, in which tailored reports are provided to suit your specific needs on a fee for service basis, and a variety of information services including:

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Business people, government officers, students and members of the public are invited to make use of these services.

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### **Internet**

Address: <http://www.statistics.gov.au>

# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## **Symbols and other usages**

Standard notations are used throughout this publication, with meanings as follows:

n.a.	not available
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
p	preliminary figure or series subject to revision
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
-----	break in continuity of series (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
(T)	Town
(S)	Shire
(CGC)	Community Government Council

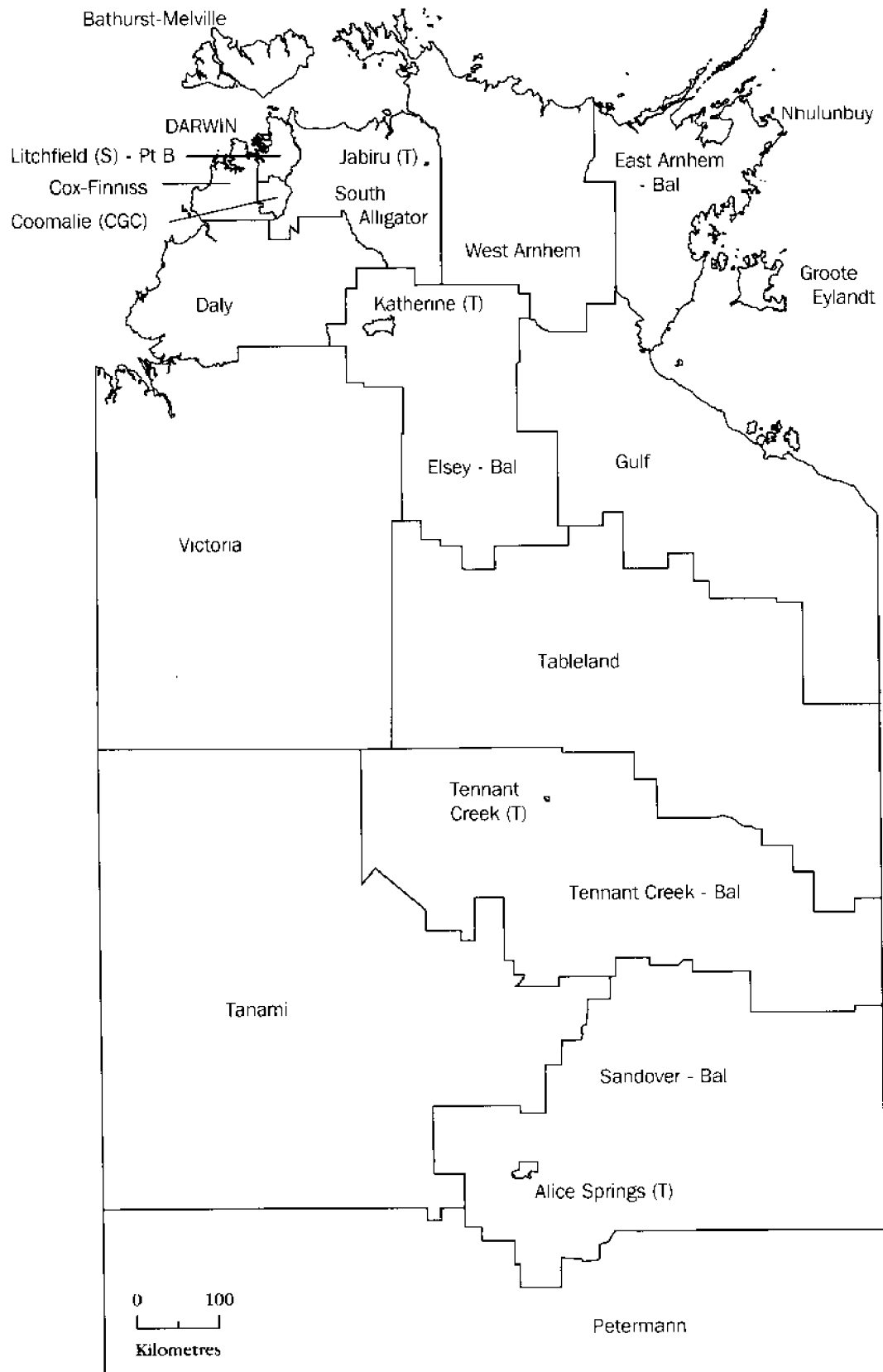
## **Reference periods**

Yearly periods shown as, for example, 1995 refer to the year ended 31 December. Those shown as, for example, 1994-95 refer to the year ended 30 June. Other yearly periods are indicated specifically.

## **Rounding**

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals shown.

# MAP OF STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS





**Pupils of Darwin Public School, 1905**

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*



**Gravesite of head stockman of Jeannie Gunn's book,  
*We of the Never Never*, 1912**

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*

# 1 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

---

This chapter provides a brief overview of historical events. For a more detailed chronology of events prior to 1994, please refer to *Northern Territory in Focus 1994*.

## Indigenous settlement

Excavations of an archaeological site in Kakadu National Park have provided dates of human occupancy reaching back 50,000 years.

## European exploration and settlement (1623-1862)

**Early 1600s:** 1623 first known European contact with the coast occurred when the Dutch ship, *Arnhem*, reached Australia at Arnhem Land.  
**First European contact** 1644 Tasman surveyed the coast of northern Australia from Cape York in the east to Willem's River in the west.

**Early 1800s:** 1824 British took possession of the northern coast of Australia.  
**British possession and settlement** Fort Dundas established on Melville Island. 1825 area that now forms Northern Territory, incorporated into New South Wales.  
1827 settlement established at Fort Wellington and in 1838 at Port Essington (both subsequently abandoned).

**Mid 1800s:** 1845 Leichhardt reached Port Essington after the first overland journey from Moreton Bay (Brisbane). 1855 Gregory explored the Victoria River. 1860 Stuart reached centre of the continent from South Australia and in 1862 reached Chambers Bay completing a south-north crossing.  
**Overland explorers**

## Under South Australian control (1863-1910)

**1860s:** 1863 Northern Territory became part of South Australia after the British Government hand-over. 1869 Palmerston (now Darwin) selected as site for the 'chief town' after dissatisfaction with an earlier site near the mouth of the Adelaide River.  
**Site for Darwin**

**1870s:** 1872 transcontinental telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin completed and linked with overseas cable. Alice Springs, named in 1871, became the main intermediate telegraph station.  
**First telegraph** 1874 payable gold is found in the Pine Creek area. About 200 Chinese people are recruited from Singapore to relieve a labour shortage, marking the beginning of extensive Chinese immigration. Palmerston (now Darwin) Council is established.  
1877 Hermannsburg Mission established west of Alice Springs. Territory's first school opened at Palmerston (Darwin) with 34 pupils.

**1880s:** 1880 large cattle properties established on the Barkly Tableland and export trade in live cattle established with eastern countries.  
**Exports of live cattle** 1888 town site of Stuart (now Alice Springs) gazetted.

## Historical overview

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<b>1890s: Aboriginal reserves created</b>	1890 South Australian Government granted parliamentary franchise to Northern Territory by including it in the South Australian electorate of Grey. 1892 first Aboriginal reserves created. 1897 Palmerston (Darwin) severely damaged by a cyclone.
<b>Early 1900s: Federation</b>	1901 The six Australian colonies united in a federal system called the Commonwealth of Australia. The Northern Territory, as part of the South Australian electorate of Grey, represented in the new Commonwealth Parliament. Indigenous people lost the right to vote at Federation.

## Under Commonwealth control (1911-1978)

<b>1910s: Commonwealth control</b>	1911 South Australian Government surrendered the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government. An Administrator was appointed and all parliamentary franchises revoked. Palmerston renamed Darwin. The first <i>Northern Territory Ordinance</i> for the protection of Aboriginal people was passed. 1913 first school for Aboriginal children in Darwin opens with 25 students. 1918 serious labour unrest known as the 'Darwin Rebellion' culminated in a mass demonstration against the Administrator.
<b>1920s: Representation in the Commonwealth Parliament</b>	1922 Commonwealth Government granted the Northern Territory separate representation in the House of Representatives. The Territory member was allowed to take part in debates but could vote only on a motion for the disallowance of any ordinance of the Northern Territory. 1928 massacre of Aboriginal people in the Coniston area, Central Australia, occurred as a reprisal for the murder of a white miner.
<b>1930s: First electricity supply</b>	1932 Darwin Town Council provided first continuous electricity supply. 1933 township of Stuart officially renamed Alice Springs. Gold found at Tennant Creek. 1934 Darwin airport used for first regular air service between England and Australia. Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service established.
<b>Early 1940s: Darwin bombings</b>	1940 water first reticulated in Darwin (Alice Springs in 1942). 1942 Darwin bombed by the Japanese (19 February), the first of 64 air raids lasting until late 1943. Darwin and Adelaide linked by telephone. 1943 Stuart and Barkly Highways completed.
<b>Late 1940s: First Legislative Council election</b>	1947 first Northern Territory Legislative Council election. The Council was given power to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory and consisted of an Administrator, seven official members and six elected members. 1949 uranium discovered at Rum Jungle.
<b>Early 1950s: Assimilation policy</b>	1951 assimilation adopted as Commonwealth Government policy. Alice Springs School of the Air opened. 1953 Bill introduced into the Northern Territory Legislative Council to give citizenship rights to certain Aboriginal people.



<b>Late 1950s: Citizenship rights granted to 'full descent' Aboriginal people</b>	1959 legislation passed by the Northern Territory Legislative Council giving citizenship rights to Aboriginal people of 'full descent' took effect. Member for the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives given limited voting rights on matters relating solely to the Territory.
<b>Early 1960s: Aboriginal people granted franchise</b>	1962 Northern Territory Electoral Regulations amended to extend the franchise to all adult Aborigines of Australia in the Northern Territory, enabling them to vote in federal elections. Radio transmission commenced in Darwin. 1963 water reticulated to Tennant Creek.
<b>Late 1960s: Full voting rights to NT representative in federal parliament</b>	1967 national referendum approved the ending of constitutional discrimination against Aboriginal people and gave the Commonwealth Government power to legislate for Aboriginal people in all States and Territories and to include them in the population census. 1968 Member for the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives given full voting rights. 1969 contract let for the construction of new town of Nhulunbuy as part of the bauxite-alumina project on Gove Peninsula.
<b>Early 1970s: Cyclone Tracy</b>	1970 rich uranium deposit discovered about 240 kilometres east of Darwin. 1971 television transmissions commenced in Darwin. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were fully included in the Census for the first time. 1974 Legislative Council replaced by a Legislative Assembly comprising 19 elected members. Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and parts of its fringe areas on Christmas Day, causing 49 deaths with 16 people missing at sea.
<b>Mid 1970s: Aboriginal Land Rights Act</b>	1975 more than 2,000 refugees from East Timor arrived in Darwin, signalling the beginning of an influx of refugees from South-East Asia over the next few years. Two Senators from the Northern Territory elected to the Commonwealth Parliament for the first time. A 3,238 square kilometre pastoral lease at Wattie Creek (Wave Hill) handed over to the Gurindji tribe. 1977 the Commonwealth Parliament's <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory)</i> 1976 commenced operation on 26 January.

### Self-government (from 1 July 1978)

<b>Late 1970s: Self- government</b>	1978 <i>Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act</i> 1978 came into force on 1 July, establishing the Northern Territory as a body politic under the Crown. The Legislative Assembly was given power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory (similar to the broad power enjoyed by the State Parliaments) administered through a Northern Territory Public Service and Treasury. The Act retained provision for the appointment of an Administrator by the Governor-General. Mr Paul Everingham was the Territory's first Chief Minister. 1979 Telecom installed the world's first complete solar energy microwave link between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.
---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Historical overview

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<b>Early 1980s: New town of Palmerston</b>	1980 standard gauge railway between Tarcoola in South Australia and Alice Springs officially opened. The Country Liberal Party won the first Territory election since self-government. The new town of Palmerston, east of Darwin, officially named. 1981 Ranger Uranium Mines Pty Ltd commenced open cut mining at Ranger near Jabiru. The population of Jabiru reached 1,000 mark. 1983 Northern Territory Legislative Assembly elections held and the Country Liberal Party returned to power. Darwin became the home base of No 75 Squadron (Mirage Fighters). 1984 Palmerston population passed 1,000 mark.
<b>Mid 1980s: Uluru National Park returns traditional owners</b>	1985 Uluru Katatjuta Aboriginal Land Trust received title deeds to Uluru National Park, giving 200 traditional owners inalienable freehold title to the land. The traditional owners agreed to lease the area back to the Commonwealth for 99 years. 1986 Amadeus Basin to Darwin gas pipeline completed at cost of \$380 million.
<b>Late 1980s: New RAAF base at Tindal</b>	1987 Territory Legislative Assembly election held and the Country Liberal Party returned to power. Darwin's 200 mW gas-fired Channel Island Power Station became fully operational. The first World Solar Car Challenge, a solar powered car race, held from Darwin to Adelaide. 1988 No 75 Squadron re-equipped with FA-18 Fighters and moved to new base at Tindal, near Katherine. 1989 Stage 1 of the Tindal RAAF Base completed. Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory amalgamated to form the Northern Territory University. Katherine Gorge officially handed back to the Jawoyn people and renamed the Nitmiluk National Park.
<b>1990s: Defence build-up</b>	1990 Northern Territory Legislative Assembly election held and the Country Liberal Party returned to power. 1991 inaugural Arafura Sports Festival held in Darwin, bringing together 20 teams from Australia and South East Asia in 20 sports. 1992 first stage of the military build-up began with the relocation of the 2nd Cavalry Unit to Darwin. Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park, which includes Coronation Hill, listed as a World Heritage Area. The McArthur River Zinc Lead Silver Mining Project commenced after the Territory and Commonwealth Governments hastened approvals as part of the national export development Fast Tracking Program. 1994 new Parliament House officially opened. Northern Territory Legislative Assembly election held and the Country Liberal Party returned to power. 1996 <i>Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995</i> , providing for medically assisted voluntary euthanasia at the request of a terminally ill person, commenced operation on 1 July, but was subjected immediately to a court challenge.





**Magnetic Termite Mounds**

Litchfield Park

*Photo: Northern Territory Tourist Commission*

### **Geography**

The total area of the Northern Territory is 1,346,200 square kilometres. It has a coastline that is 5,100 kilometres long with a further 2,100 kilometres of coast around off-lying islands. Most of the coast is low-lying and consists mainly of unvegetated mudflats or mangrove swamps with occasional cliffs that rarely exceed 20 metres in height. The large tidal range of the north-western coast influences some of the larger rivers for more than 100 kilometres upstream. There are extensive seasonally flooded coastal plains and black soil plains fringing the river systems.

Inland, the coastal lowlands merge into the dissected sandstone plateaus of Arnhem Land to the north and the granitic and sandstone Ord-Victoria river plateaus to the west, with rounded ridges of largely metamorphic rocks between those plateaus. Much of the Top End is dominated by the craggy sandstone face of the Arnhem escarpment, with its rocky outliers and pockets of rainforest and deep gorges and river channels that drain the water from the escarpment.

The central section of the Northern Territory is formed of shallowly dissected latitised sandstone ridges and sandplains. To the west there are the Lander dune fields with east-west trending longitudinal dunes and to the east the black clay plains and limestone or sandstone rises of the Barkly Tablelands.

The southern end of the Northern Territory is dominated by the Central Australian Ranges. These consist of granitic, sandstone and quartzic ridges separated by sandplains or stony lowlands. To the north of the MacDonnell Ranges are the deserts consisting of waves of sand dunes, claypans and stony deserts (the Territory's harshest habitat), and to the south are the generally dry riverbeds and sandplains.

### **Climate**

#### **Seasons**

In the tropical north, the annual seasonal pattern alternates between wet and dry seasons of variable length and intensity, related to the strength of the monsoon. The wet seasons officially runs from 1 October to 30 April and the dry season from 1 May to 30 September.

By contrast the southern half of the Territory is relatively dry for most of the year and experiences cool winters (June to August) and hot summers (December to February) when the area receives the bulk of its small rainfall totals. During the wet season, tropical weather systems from the north sometimes traverse into southern parts. In the arid areas of the inland, rainfall is much more erratic, though the winter months are generally drier than summer.

Drier than average years in the Territory tend to be associated with 'El Niño' events, when global-scale atmospheric changes suppress rainfall over wide areas of northern and eastern Australia.

#### **Winds**

During the dry season fine conditions predominate throughout the Territory. Winds are typically dry, being light to moderate south-easterlies. In the north the onset of these dry south-easterlies signifies the start of the dry weather. Very little rain falls over most of the Top End during the dry season (see Table 2.2) but light showers are fairly common about the north-east coast and occasionally develop elsewhere over the northern Top End. Bushfires during this season are common over the northern half

## Physical environment

and are fuelled by abundant wet season growth which has been dried by the prevailing dry south-easterlies.

Over the southern half, low pressure troughs which move in from the south-west turn the winds northerly and can trigger isolated thunderstorm activity. Under appropriate conditions extensive north-west cloud bands can develop and cause widespread rainfall across the south. These cloud bands form when moisture from the tropical Indian Ocean is directed toward central Australia in the middle levels of the atmosphere. Bushfires in the southern half are fairly common during October and November and are usually ignited by lightning from dry gusty thunderstorms.

**Temperature** About the coast there is only little variation in mean monthly temperatures throughout the year. Across the northern half of the Territory temperatures are highest early in the wet season while the southern half experiences larger variations of temperature (Table 2.1). During summer, temperatures across the south are hot and often exceed 40 degrees. January being the hottest month. Throughout the Northern Territory the coldest months are June and July.

**TABLE 2.1 LONG TERM MEAN TEMPERATURES, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Darwin		Gove		Katherine		Tennant Creek		Alice Springs	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
	° C									
Jan	24.8	31.8	24.5	32.3	24.0	35.0	25.0	36.9	21.2	36.0
Feb	24.6	31.4	24.3	31.5	23.7	34.3	24.6	35.9	20.6	34.9
Mar	24.4	31.8	23.9	31.3	22.9	34.5	23.2	34.4	17.4	32.5
Apr	23.9	32.6	23.1	31.0	20.4	34.0	20.1	31.3	12.6	27.9
May	22.1	31.9	22.6	29.9	17.1	32.1	16.5	27.7	8.4	22.8
Jun	19.9	30.5	21.0	28.3	14.1	30.0	12.8	24.5	5.2	19.8
Jul	19.3	30.4	20.4	27.6	13.2	30.1	12.0	24.3	4.0	19.4
Aug	20.6	31.2	19.2	28.5	15.5	32.5	14.4	27.6	6.1	22.3
Sep	23.1	32.4	19.7	30.1	19.6	35.4	17.8	31.0	9.9	26.6
Oct	25.0	33.1	21.1	31.5	23.6	37.7	21.6	34.7	14.7	30.8
Nov	25.3	33.1	23.4	33.2	24.7	38.0	23.7	36.5	17.8	33.5
Dec	25.2	32.6	24.5	33.2	24.4	36.5	24.9	37.6	20.1	35.4

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

The highest temperature recorded in the Territory was 48.3°C at Finke in 1960 while the lowest recorded temperature was -7.5°C at Alice Springs in 1976.

**Humidity** In the north, relative humidities are highest during the wet season (averaging between 71 and 84 per cent at 9.00 am) and lowest at the height of the dry season (averaging between 63 and 71 per cent at 9.00 am). In contrast, relative humidities in the south are generally highest in June and lowest in spring and summer.

**Rainfall** The north-west Top End has the highest annual rainfall for the Territory. Darwin's yearly mean is 1,659 mm while Alice Springs receives a yearly mean of 277 mm. Yearly mean rainfall totals, especially across the south, should be viewed with caution since there is a large variation in rainfall from year to year. High rainfall totals during summer result from tropical weather systems which move into the area. During winter

spark and is nature's way of neutralising huge electrical charge differences that may build up between the clouds/atmosphere and the earth or between or even within clouds. These charges are built up by collisions of frozen particles within clouds, requiring the very strong updraughts and downdraughts commonly found in tropical thunderstorms. The western Top End and Tiwi Islands are among the most active areas for thunderstorms in the world with Darwin alone averaging more than 30,000 lightning flashes per year.

### Cyclones

Tropical cyclones can form off the coast anytime from November to April and active monsoon periods are their favoured time for development. Heavy rain and gale to storm force winds can be experienced along the coast if a cyclone is in the vicinity. On average, there are 7.7 days each year when a cyclone exists over the waters around the Northern Territory and cyclones have caused damage over most coastal regions.

Darwin has been hit by three major cyclones in the last 100 years. Cyclones caused severe damage in January 1897 and again in March 1937. On Christmas day in 1974 the city of Darwin was devastated by Cyclone Tracy. Wind speed monitoring equipment at Darwin Airport broke when gusts measured about 200 km/h and it was estimated that wind gusts exceeded 240 kilometres per hour during the worst of the cyclone. On that day 49 people were killed and a further 16 went missing at sea. Approximately 90 per cent of houses were damaged or destroyed.

## Vegetation

### Flora

The Northern Territory has a rich and diverse landscape, ranging from arid deserts to lush, tropical monsoon forests. The vegetation is basically Australian in character although there is a significant component of flora derived from the Indo-Malayan regions.

In the Top End, the monsoon climate, the frequency of fires associated with it and the poor soils support eucalypt forests with open savannah understoreys. There are pockets of rainforest either in the gorges of the escarpments or scattered in the surrounding dry woodland around springs and streams and in the margins of rivers and coastal wetlands. Along the coastal waterways mangroves form an impenetrable tangle of dense woodland, while paperbarks form along billabongs and swamps. Further inland the tropical woodlands consist of dense and high spear grass, cycads and pandanus palms. In the dry, spear grass and annual vegetation dies making fuel for fires which blacken the woodland.

Further south the height and density of forest decreases into low woodland. In the Barkly and parts of the Victoria River district savanna and seasonal grasses with scattered shrubs and stunted trees are common.

In the Central Australian Ranges there are pockets of palms, cycads and ghost gums. Along the mainly dry river beds are large river red gums and the sandplains are scattered with bushes, small trees and grasses. In the country surrounding Alice Springs is acacia scrub or 'mulga'. Out in the barren landscape of the deserts are scattered patches of arid grasses and small shrubs such as spinifex and saltbush.

### Flora research

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (formerly the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory) documents and promotes conservation of the flora of the Northern Territory and its use by Aboriginal people.

During 1993-94 the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory completed *An Atlas of Vascular Rainforest Plants in the Top End*. The Atlas contains distribution maps for 585 native and 19 naturalised plants. A total of 80,000 records were

## Physical environment

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compiled from a survey of 1,245 rainforest sites and specimen collections were lodged in the Northern Territory Herbarium.

The Commission also published *Traditional Aboriginal Medicines in the Northern Territory of Australia* during 1993-94, marking the culmination of the Aboriginal Pharmacopoeia Project which was conducted jointly by the Commission and the NT Department of Health and Community Services (now Territory Health Services).

Following two years of joint surveys of the Northern Territory coast by the Commission and the North Australian Quarantine Strategy, a comprehensive database of all coastal weeds was developed and new plants were discovered. A number of new plant species were also discovered during 1993-94 when the flora of the Fitzmaurice River was surveyed as part of a program to document the biota of the region.

### Endangered plant species

During 1994-95 the Conservation Commission completed mapping of the rare tree, *Acacia undoolyana*, in Central Australia and will use this information to develop management plans. The Commission also continued to monitor populations of the rare palm *Ptychosperma bleeseri*.

## Wildlife

The Top End supports a rich diversity of animal life, with many species characteristic of mangroves, wetlands, monsoon rainforest, Eucalyptus open forests, savannah woodland, sandstone ranges and *Acacia* tall shrublands.

### Mangrove communities

The coastal areas have the richest mangrove communities in Australia. Animal species occurring in them include mangrove snakes, brushtail possums, the rare false water-rat and a number of characteristic bird species including yellow white-eye, red-headed honeyeater, chestnut rail and mangrove kingfisher. Many hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds visit the beach regions of the Top End and swamps and inland water bodies every year.

### Wetland communities

Wetland communities are widespread in the Top End and include nationally important breeding sites for species such as magpie geese, whistle-ducks and jacanas. Two species of crocodiles, including the dangerous saltwater crocodile, two aquatic file snakes and at least six species of freshwater turtles are reasonably common in Top End waterways. In 1994 the 'Window on the Wetlands' visitor centre was opened at Beatrice Hill, 60 kilometres south of Darwin. Located on one of the highest places on the Adelaide River floodplain, the centre provides a comprehensive and spectacular interpretative display of the wetlands.

In the small patches of monsoon rainforests, distinctive jungle birds occur, including the Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Rainbow Pitta and Torresian Imperial-Pigeon. This habitat has declined over the last 50,000 years and most mammal and reptile species have been lost from the formerly more extensive vegetation type.

The Eucalyptus open forests resemble those of southern Australia and include many of the same animal species or their close relatives. Residents of the northern eucalypt forests with southern relatives include the Blue-winged Kookaburra, Northern Fantail, Northern Rosella and White-throated Honeyeater. Unlike their southern counterparts, the northern eucalypt forests remain extensive and little changed by European land management practices. Further inland and with lower rainfall, the height of these forests decreases and the trees become more separated and these savanna woodlands carry a different group of animal species. The prolific growth of grasses in these habitats support an abundant fauna of seed-eating birds, including more than 20 species of finches, parrots, doves and quails, including the endangered Gouldian Finch.



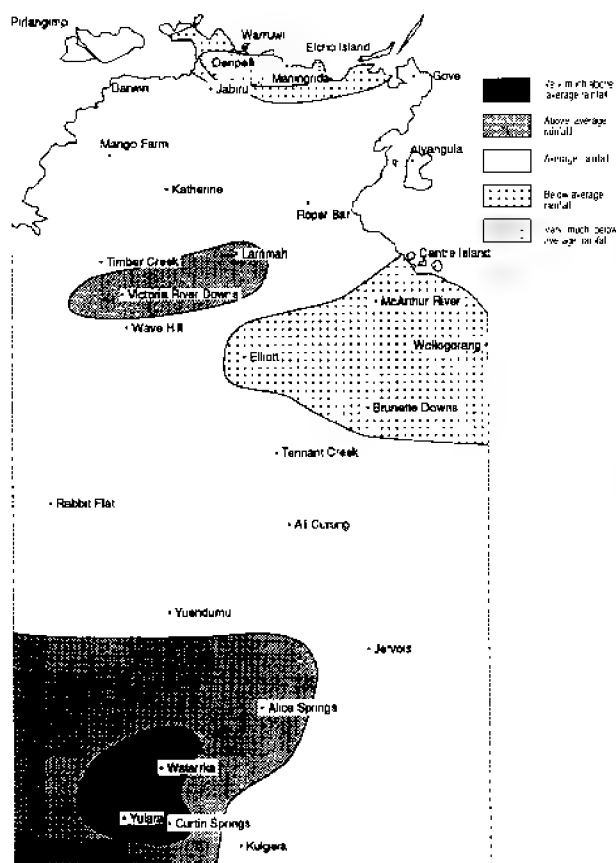
north west cloud bands can also cause high totals. These situations sometimes cause flooding. For example, in March 1988 Alice Springs recorded 205 mm in 24 hours but only 82 mm fell during the driest year recorded in Alice Springs (1965).

In the northern Top End, 1994-95 wet season was very much wetter than 1993-94. This was mainly due to two fairly intense monsoonal periods in January and March 1995. January rainfall totals broke previous records at a number of locations in the north-west including Darwin.

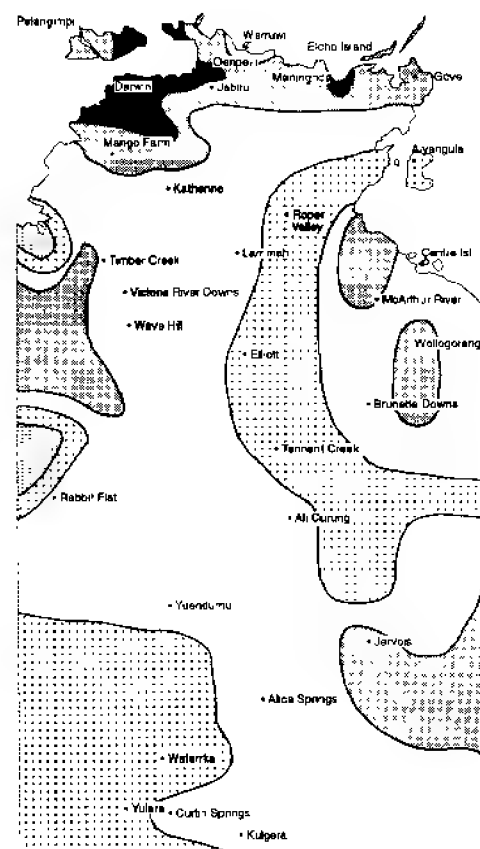
However, large parts of the inland recorded average to below average rainfall for the periods April 1993 to March 1994 and April 1994 to March 1995 (Graph 2.1). The western half of the Alice Springs district received above average rain in 1993-94, mainly due to good falls during May-June and September-October 1993. This situation was reversed in 1994-95, even though there was general heavy rain in much of the Alice Springs district during January 1995.

### GRAPH 2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL, NORTHERN TERRITORY

April 1993 - March 1994



April 1994 - March 1995



Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Despite heavy falls in the early months, the remainder of 1995 was drier than average in much of the Territory except during May and, to a lesser extent, November when central and southern parts had reasonable falls. The build-up to the 1995-96 wet season brought below average thunderstorm activity in most of the Top End.

## Physical environment

**TABLE 2.2 LONG TERM MEAN MONTHLY RAINFALL, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Darwin	Gove	Katherine	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs
	millimetres				
Jan	421	280	230	95	36
Feb	344	296	256	112	40
Mar	313	264	194	55	35
Apr	99	185	35	14	13
May	21	71	9	10	21
Jun	1	34	—	6	15
Jul	1	23	2	6	15
Aug	6	5	1	2	11
Sep	17	3	8	9	9
Oct	71	8	29	19	21
Nov	142	41	81	33	25
Dec	236	171	170	61	37

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

### Monsoonal periods

During the wet season the northern half of the Territory experiences periods of active monsoonal weather, often one or two months apart although this can be quite variable. These periods are interspersed with inactive periods. Active monsoonal periods last for a few days to a week or more and are characterised by cloudy conditions with persistent rain and some heavy showers or storms. Moderate to fresh northwesterly winds dominate. Temperatures are relatively cool during these periods. Break periods in the monsoon are usually longer than the active monsoon phases. They are characterised by light winds, isolated shower and thunderstorm activity and occasional gusty thunderstorm squall lines. These squalls often have gusts which reach 80 kilometres per hour.

#### Thunderstorm 'Hector'

During the build-up to the wet season, a large thunderstorm regularly develops over the Tiwi Islands. The occurrence is so regular that the storm has been nicknamed 'Hector'. The origin of the name is shrouded in mystery. However, it is believed to have been first used by World War II pilots who used the storm, which can be seen from well over 100 kilometres away, as a navigational aid when returning to Darwin after long flights.

Hector has been of great interest to meteorologists in the study of island thunderstorm development due to its regular appearance in the pre-monsoon environment. During the build-up to the 1995 wet season a scientific experiment to study these storms was conducted over the Tiwi Islands and in the Darwin area. It involved dozens of scientists and considerable resources, including aircraft, ships and radars, from many scientific institutions in several countries.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

### Lightning strikes

The lightning produced by storms during transition seasonal and monsoon break periods can be quite spectacular. Lightning is nothing more than a very long electrical

### **Central Australian wildlife**

The areas of low mountain sandstone ranges include the Arnhem Land massif of the Top End and the MacDonnell Ranges of central Australia. In these rugged habitats restricted species of mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds occur including rock-rats, rock-wallabies, rock-possums, the Oenpelli Python, cave geckos and grass-wrens.

Central Australia is characterised by low and unreliable rainfall and has a very different mix of habitats and wildlife to that of the Top End. Distinctive species of this environment include mammals such as the Marsupial Mole, Red Kangaroo, Mulgara, Hopping Mice and Bilby, reptiles such as Thorny Devil and Woma and birds such as the Red-capped Robin, Princess Parrot, Bourke Parrot and Budgerigar.

### **Impact of European settlement**

The wildlife of the Northern Territory has had a mixed response to European settlement. About half of the mammal species of central Australia have vanished from that area and some which have survived are still declining. In contrast, habitats of the Top End remain amongst the least modified and most extensive of Australia and there has been no loss of vertebrates to date. Continued threats to wildlife include changes in fire regimes, feral predators and high densities of feral and domestic herbivorous mammals.

### **Conservation programs**

During 1994-95 the Conservation Commission continued to conduct research on feral cats, camels and rabbits in central Australia to increase knowledge about these animals and to determine methods of achieving better control of them. The Commission also commenced a program to eradicate pigeons in Alice Springs and began developing a control program for sparrows in Tennant Creek.

Research programs on the mala, bilby, mulgara, Carpentarian Rock-rat, Golden Bandicoot and Gouldian Finch were maintained or expanded during 1994-95. Notable results during the year included the discovery of substantial populations of Golden Bandicoots, which had not been seen in the Northern Territory for 40 years, on Marchinbar Island, north east of Darwin. This rare mammal is considered extinct in four Australian States. Two of the bandicoots are now part of a captive breeding program. Researchers also discovered about 50 Carpentarian Rock-rats in a gorge in the Wollogorang area, the largest population of this species known.

A total of 196 problem crocodiles were removed from Territory waters and relocated to crocodile farms during 1994-95, compared to 231 in the previous year. Most of these crocodiles were removed from Darwin Harbour (184 or 94 per cent) with the remainder taken from pastoral properties and Aboriginal lands (5), East Arnhem (4) and tourist areas (3). Trials for the harvest of wild crocodiles at an outstation near Maningrida were announced in 1994-95 following a decision made by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species to lift a ban on commercial harvesting of wild saltwater crocodiles in Australia.

The Commission's Wildlife Management Unit monitors the trade of crocodile products and skins manufactured within the Territory through the issue of permits, tags and inspections. It also assists with annual surveys, harvest and egg collection.

### **Wildlife and hunting permits**

In 1994-95 the Wildlife Management Unit issued 1,835 permits for the keeping and trading of wildlife. The Unit also issued 1,187 waterfowl and 209 pig and buffalo hunting permits which allow hunting on designated Commission estate.

## Status of Aboriginal land claims at 30 June 1996

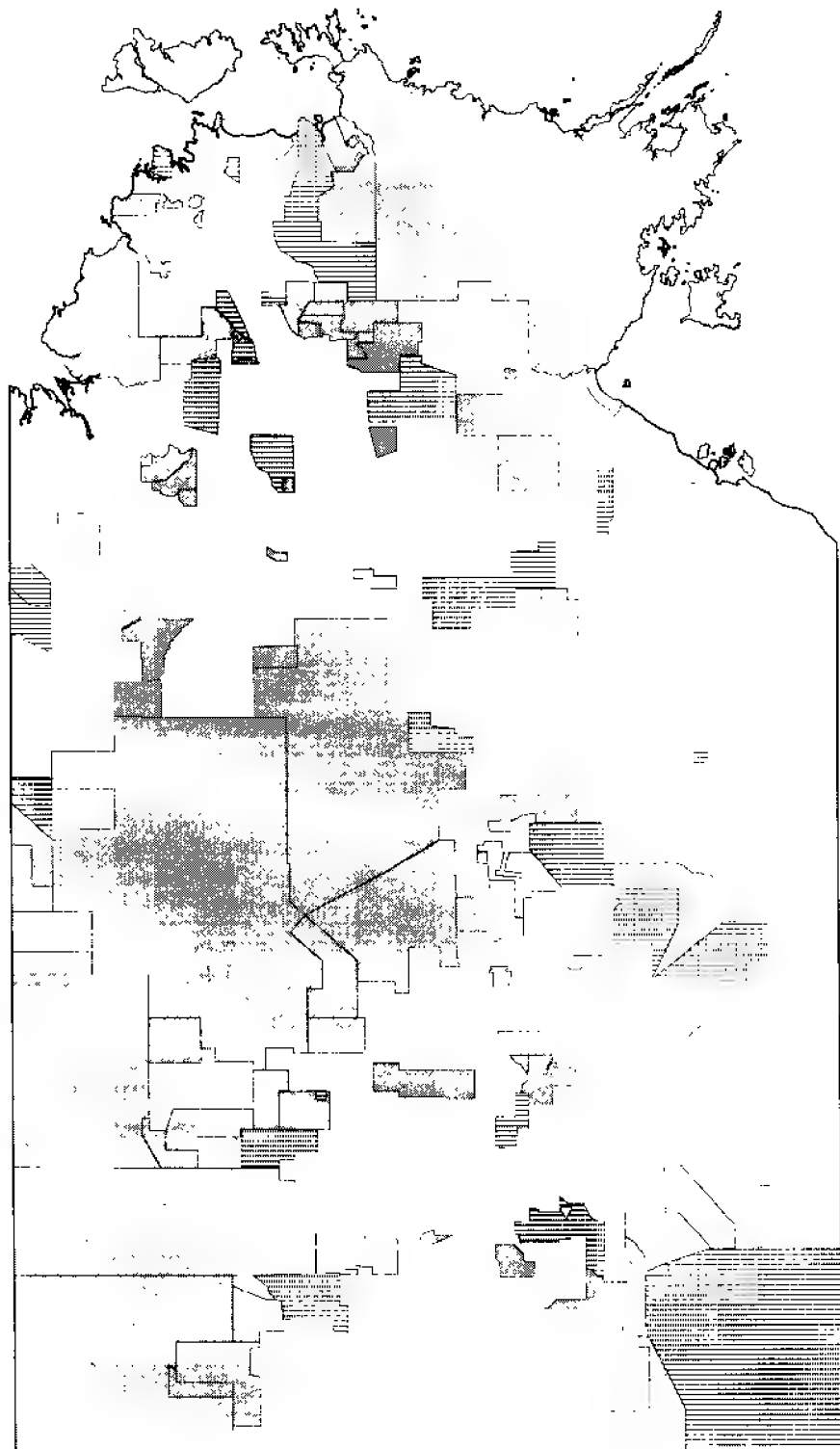
<b>Completed claims</b>	<b>57</b>
Northern Territory title	6
Commonwealth title	42
Scheduled	9
<b>Outstanding claims</b>	<b>76</b>
Claims in progress	23
Reports with the Minister:	9
Warumungu, Brooks Soak, Borroloola (three claims), Jawoyn (Gimbat and Goodparla), Mistake Creek, Finnis River and Mataranka Note: Goodparla is yet to be heard. The bulk of Finnis River and Mataranka has been granted but the balance remains with the Minister.	
Reports being written:	2
Warlmanpa (Muckaty) and Elsey	
Part heard:	6
Palm Valley, Beetaloo, Loves Creek, Tempe Downs, Kenbi and Alcoota	
Settlement in progress:	6
West Desert North Repeat, Wickham River, Frewena, Urrpantyerne Repeat, Bumby Plains and Bauhinia	
Stock routes and reserves	26
Claims awaiting hearing (including eight repeat claims)	27
<b>Total land claims lodged</b> (excluding duplications, amalgamations, withdrawals and rejections)	<b>133</b>

Between May 1980 and June 1996 the proportion of Northern Territory land granted to Aboriginal people as a result of land claims doubled from 20.6 per cent to 41.6 per cent.

	sq kms	% of NT
<b>Granted Aboriginal land</b>	<b>560,184</b>	<b>41.6</b>
Northern Territory title	14,542	1.1
Commonwealth title	275,449	20.5
Scheduled	270,193	20.1
<b>Outstanding claims</b>	<b>113,225</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Total area granted or under claim</b>	<b>673,409</b>	<b>50.0</b>

Source: NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

## ABORIGINAL LAND IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



LAND GRANTED

LAND UNDER CLAIM

NT Department of  
Lands, Planning  
and Environment

Updated: July 96

### Parks

There are 90 areas set aside in the Northern Territory as parks and reserves for conservation and recreational purposes. They cover 4,506,936 hectares or about 3.2 per cent of the Territory.

The Territory's parks and reserves fall into seven categories - national parks, nature parks, marine parks, historical reserves, conservation reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and game reserves. All but two of the Territory's parks and reserves are controlled by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. Uluru and Kakadu National Parks are controlled by the Australian Nature and Conservation Agency.

<b>Uluru National Park</b>	On 26 October 1985, the Uluru Katatjuta Aboriginal Land Trust received the title deeds to Uluru National Park. As a consequence 200 traditional owners (the Anangu people) hold inalienable freehold title to the land. Although agreeing to lease the area back to the Commonwealth for 99 years, the traditional owners play a major role in managing the park as a tourist facility while protecting areas of spiritual significance. Park management has estimated that 312,500 adults visited the Park in 1995.
<b>Kakadu National Park</b>	Kakadu National Park is World Heritage listed and one of the principal destinations for visitors to the Northern Territory. Park management has estimated that 235,500 people visited the Park in 1995.
<b>Gurig and Nitmiluk National</b>	The Gurig National Park on the Cobourg Peninsula, the Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge) and North Island in the Sir Edward Pellew Group of Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria are managed by boards. These boards consist of traditional owners and Northern Territory Government representatives. An estimated 300,000 people visited Nitmuluk National Park in 1994-95.
<b>Litchfield Park</b>	Litchfield Park is located 100 kilometres south-west of Darwin and covers about 143,000 hectares. During 1995 there were 255,000 visitors to Litchfield Park, up from 233,500 in 1994. The upgrade and sealing of access roads, new walking tracks, carparks and toilet facilities around the Park have increased its popularity in recent years. A new bridge across the Finnis River, built at a cost of \$750,000 and officially opened in April 1996, will provide improved access to Litchfield during the wet season (visitor numbers were often restricted in the past due to severe flooding).
<b>Territory Wildlife Park</b>	<p>The Territory Wildlife Park exhibits native wildlife natural habitats set in 400 hectares of natural bushland. The Park promotes environmental education in a wildlife setting as well as conservation and research. The Park successfully bred 29 animal species during 1993-94 and, during 1994-95, re-established a Bilby breeding program.</p> <p>In 1994-95 there were 108,500 visitors to the Park, up from 102,000 in 1993-94. Visitors to the adjoining Berry Springs Nature Park numbered 150,000 in 1994-95, up from 132,500 in the previous year.</p>
<b>Desert Wildlife Park and Botanic Gardens</b>	Construction of the Desert Wildlife Park and Botanic Gardens began in 1994 and the Park is expected to open to the public in 1996-97. Located in Alice Springs, the objectives of the Park are to develop, maintain and present Australia's largest living collection of arid zone flora and fauna for the enjoyment and education of all visitors. The Park already plays a critical role in research into arid zone flora and fauna, and in the captive breeding and maintenance of endangered species. It is also a major centre for student training and education in conservation, the horticulture of desert plants and the husbandry of desert animals.

## Environmental protection

<b>Environment Protection Unit</b>	The NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment administers the Acts and regulations protecting the environment. The role of its Environment Protection Unit is to promote consideration of environmental factors in the development and management of resources and to develop environmental protection policies, strategies and programs.
<b>Monitoring activities</b>	In 1994-95 the Environment Protection Unit was involved in a number of environmental baseline studies on Darwin Harbour. One of those studies involved collecting data on water quality and marine life in Darwin Harbour for a six month period before dredging for the new port facility at East Arm began in May 1995. Results to date indicate that dredging activity has had little effect on corals, oysters or water quality. Some corals were relocated to a site elsewhere in the Harbour prior to the commencement of dredging and were alive and healthy six months later.
<b>Waste management</b>	During 1994-95 the Environmental Protection Unit developed the Northern Territory Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy. The strategy includes the production of an environmental management handbook for small business and the development of guidelines for the management of solid waste disposal sites. The Strategy has been endorsed by the Government as a five year plan.
<b>Land conservation</b>	The Land Conservation program advises on the sustainable use and utilisation of the land resources (landforms, soils, vegetation). The Northern Territory Government allocated \$1.3 million for the National Landcare Program in the 1994-95 Budget.
<b>Weeds</b>	The Northern Territory Noxious Weeds Act provides the legislative basis for weed control in the Territory. The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries maintains a list of noxious weeds and provides regular bulletins on new threats that have appeared in the Territory.

### Mimosa - an environmental weed

*Mimosa pigra*, a woody prickly plant from South America, is one of Australia's worst environmental weeds. It already infests 80,000 hectares of the Top End's wetlands and threatens to take over the whole northern wetlands of Australia, including Kakadu National Park.

Biological control is considered to be the only long-term solution to controlling the weed. Biological control agents, or natural enemies, of mimosa are being imported by CSIRO and, after comprehensive testing for host specificity, released. At February 1996 seven species of insect and a fungal pathogen had been released and CSIRO is assessing the impact of these agents on Mimosa.

Source: CSIRO, Northern Territory

## Community concern for environmental issues

<b>Environmental concerns</b>	At June 1994, 72.2 per cent (64,600) of Territorians living in urban areas were concerned with at least one specific environmental problem, compared to 68.9 per cent of all Australians.
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The problem of greatest concern to Territorians was destruction of trees/ecosystems (30,700 or 34.3 per cent) followed by air pollution (29,900 or 33.4 per cent). Air pollution was the major concern nationally (34.1 per cent). Almost three-quarters

## Physical environment

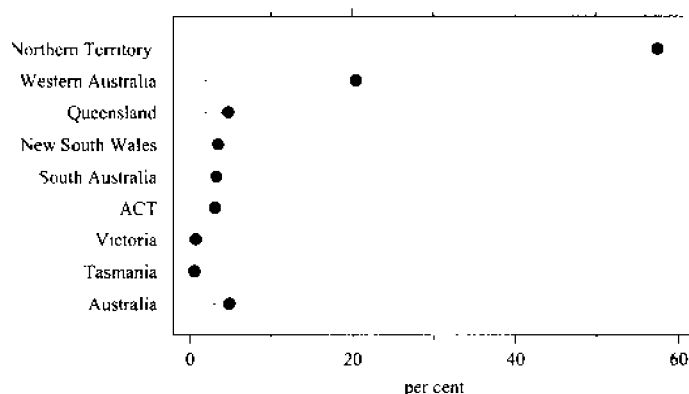
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(65,300 or 73.1 per cent) of Territorians believed that protection of the environment and growth of the economy were equally important while 20.1 per cent (18,000) ranked environmental protection ahead of economic growth.

### Use of solar energy

At June 1994 the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of hot water systems using solar energy (26,600 or 57.5 per cent), followed by Western Australia with 20.5 per cent (Graph 2.2). Nationally only 4.9 per cent of hot water systems used solar energy.

**GRAPH 2.2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1994**



Source: ABS Catalogue No 4602.0

## Further reading

### ABS publications

*Year Book Australia* (1301.0)

*Social Indicators, Australia* (4101.0)

*Australians and the Environment* (4601.0)

*Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (4602.0)

*Cost of Environment Protection, Australia: Selected Industries* (4603.0)

### Non-ABS publications

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (formerly Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory), *Annual Report*

CSIRO Australia, *Controlling Mimosa Pigra* (Information Sheet)

Darwin Port Authority, *Annual Report*

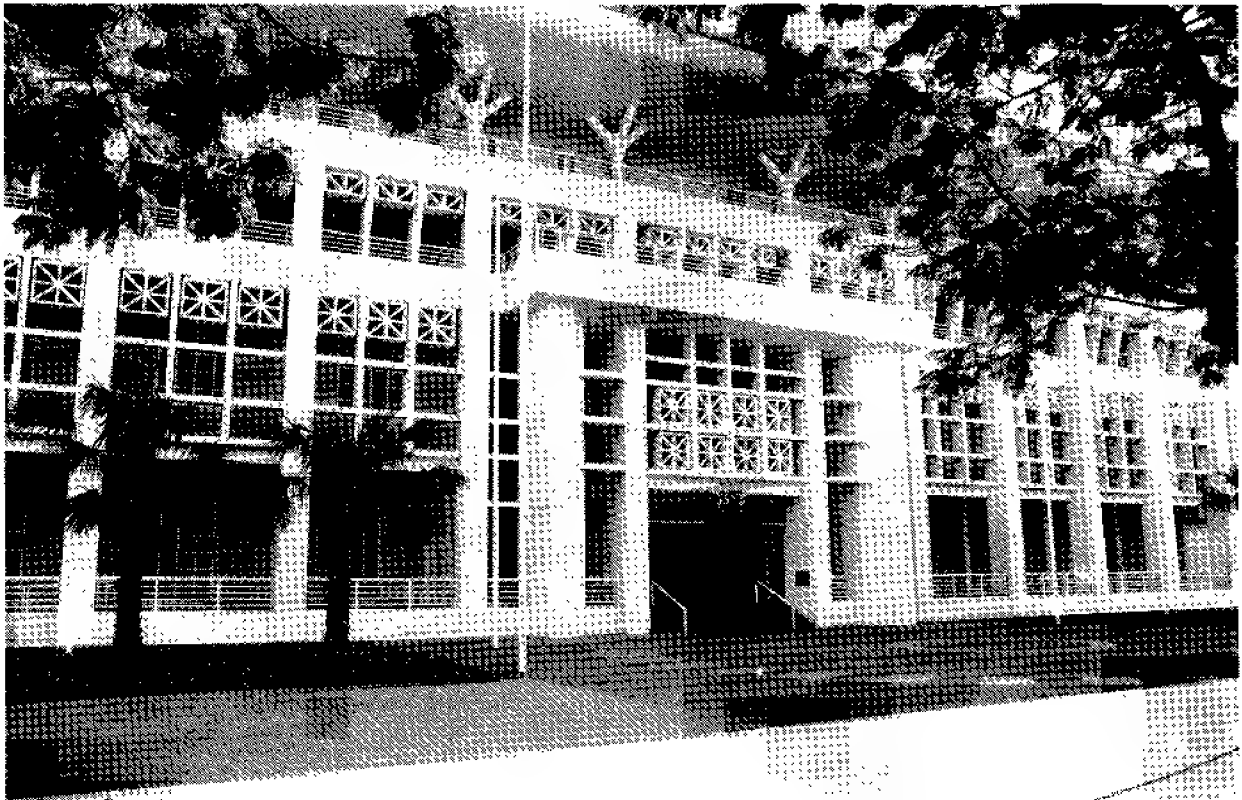
NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, *Annual Report*

NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Top Paddock* (Newsletter)

Northern Territory of Australia, *The Budget* (Budget Paper No. 2)







**Parliament House**

The new Parliament House was officially opened in 1994.

*(Photo: Mark Walker)*

There are three levels of government in the Northern Territory: the Commonwealth Parliament; the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly; and local government.

### Commonwealth Parliament

#### Legislative powers

The *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* authorised the union of the six Australian colonies in a federal system which was proclaimed on 1 January 1901. While the Constitution confers some legislative powers exclusively on the Commonwealth Parliament (for example, the power to impose customs and excise duties), most of the powers are shared between the Commonwealth Parliament and the six State Parliaments (for example, trade and commerce, banking, quarantine, marriage, divorce and immigration). Where conflict between State and Commonwealth legislation occurs, the Commonwealth legislation prevails.

#### Structure

The Commonwealth Parliament consists of the Queen (represented in Australia by the Governor-General), the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 76 members and the House of Representatives has 148 members.

Following the federal election in March 1996 the Northern Territory was represented in the Commonwealth Parliament by one member in the House of Representatives (from the Country Liberal Party) and by two members in the Senate (one from the Country Liberal Party and one from the Australian Labor Party).

### Northern Territory Legislative Assembly

#### Historical development

The Northern Territory was originally a part of the colony of New South Wales. The Territory later became part of South Australia after the British Government handed it over in 1863. On 1 January 1911, the South Australian Government surrendered the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government which took over all the assets and liabilities of the Territory. The Territory then remained part of the Commonwealth until 1978 when the Commonwealth Parliament enacted legislation making the Northern Territory self-governing from 1 July 1978.

The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assemblies are unique. Unlike the six State Parliaments, the Assemblies were established by the Commonwealth Parliament in the exercise of its power under section 122 of the Constitution which provides that the Parliament 'may make laws for the government of any territory ...'. This means that the Assemblies can be abolished or have their powers substantially curtailed by the Commonwealth Parliament. Their legislation may also be disallowed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Commonwealth Ministers.

#### Legislative powers

Under the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*, the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory which is similar to the broad power enjoyed by the six State Parliaments.

#### Structure

The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly comprises just one legislative chamber - that is, there is no upper house equivalent to the Senate. Following the Northern Territory election in 1994, the Assembly consisted of 25 members who are serving a four year term. There are 16 Country Liberal Party members, eight Australian Labor Party members and one Independent member.

## Government

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<b>Role of the Administrator</b>	<p>The Administrator of the Northern Territory is appointed by the Governor-General and is charged under the Act with the duty of administering the government of the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Every proposed law passed by the Legislative Assembly is presented to the Administrator who may assent to the proposed law, withhold assent, return it to the Legislative Assembly with recommended amendments or, in certain cases, reserve the proposed law for the Governor-General's pleasure.</p> <p>The Administrator also appoints, on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, a number of members from the governing political party as Ministers to specific portfolios. These Ministers form an Executive Council to advise the Administrator in the government of the Territory in relation to matters in which they have executive authority. At February 1996 the Ministry consisted of nine Country Liberal Party members.</p>
<b>Local government</b>	
<p>Local government has existed in the Northern Territory, in a variety of forms, since 1874 when the Palmerston District Council was established for what later became the town of Darwin. However, due to the sparsity of population, the remoteness of communities in the outback and limited development, local government did not expand significantly in the Territory until the 1970s.</p> <p>Unlike the other States and the Australian Capital Territory, there are two forms of local government in the Northern Territory - municipal councils and community government councils. The Territory also has two special purpose towns.</p>	
<b>Municipal councils</b>	<p>At January 1996 there were six municipal councils in the Northern Territory - Darwin City, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Palmerston and Litchfield. The councils are incorporated bodies, comprised of members elected by the community and headed by a Mayor or President.</p> <p>Municipal councils in the Territory operate under the Local Government Act which clearly defines the powers and responsibilities which have been handed to local government by the Northern Territory Government. For example, councils may provide a very wide range of community services including parks, recreational facilities, libraries, road making and maintenance, animal control, waste disposal, recycling facilities, garbage collection, litter control, street lighting and car parking.</p>
<b>Community government councils</b>	<p>In 1978 the Local Government Act was amended to allow the establishment of local governing bodies in small and remote communities. The Act recognises these community government councils as full and equal parties in the local government sphere with the same (or more) powers and functions available. At January 1996 there were 32 community government councils and an additional 10 councils are expected to be established as soon as consultations have been completed.</p>
<b>Special purpose towns</b>	<p>Jabiru and Nhulunbuy are known as special purpose towns.</p> <p>Unlike the municipal councils, Jabiru Town Council is incorporated under the <i>Jabiru Town Development Act</i>. This means that Jabiru Town Council has unique legislation and functions, including the provision of the water supply and sewerage services.</p> <p>The company town of Nhulunbuy was initially serviced and administered by a public company, Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd. Nhulunbuy now has an advisory town board which has four elected members and representatives from the Nhulunbuy Corporation</p>

Ltd, Nabalco Pty Ltd and the Northern Territory Government. The board's recommendations can be vetoed by the Nhulunbuy Corporation Ltd.

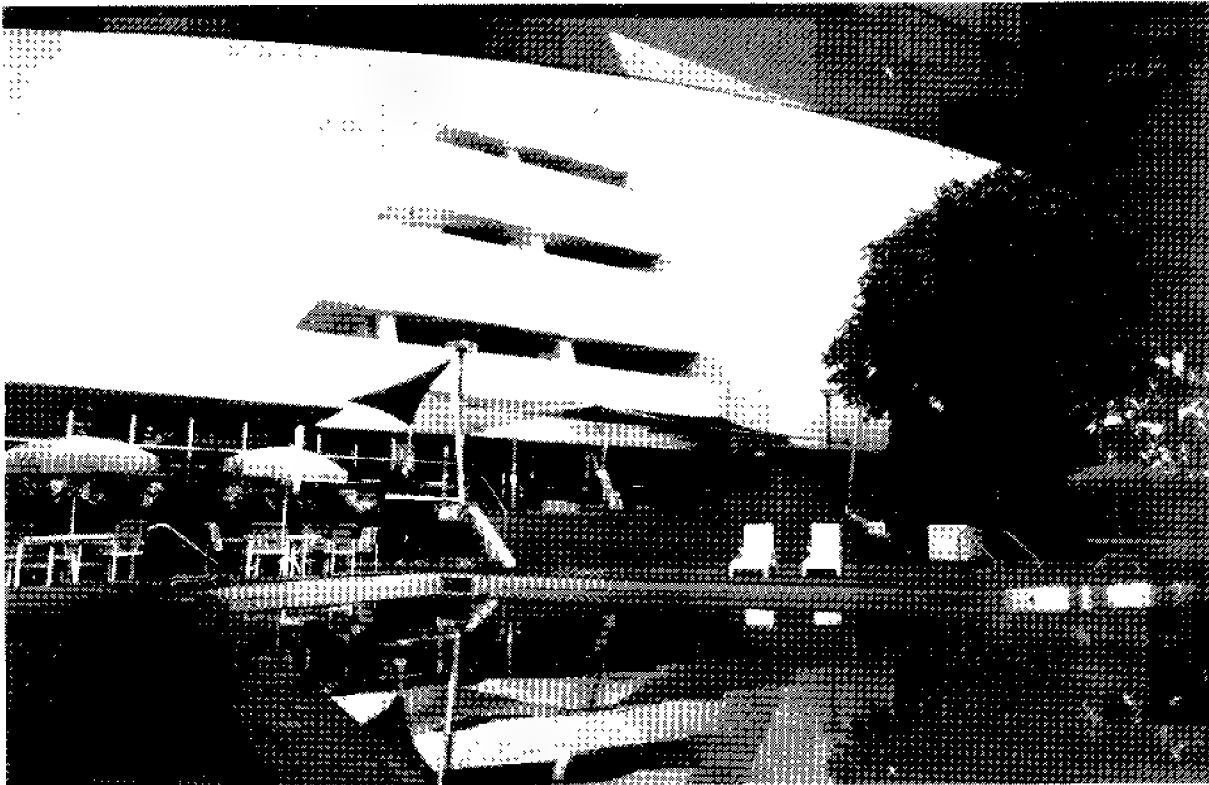
## **Further reading**

### **Non-ABS publications**

Darwin City Council and the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Local Government, *Local Government in the Northern Territory*, 1996

Darwin City Council, *Annual Report*

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, *List of Members*



**Darwin's Casino, the MGM Grand Darwin**

In 1994-95 the Northern Territory Government collected \$20 million in taxes on gambling.

*Photo: MGM Grand Darwin*



**Territory office workers**

Government administration and defence contributed 7.8 per cent to the Territory's Gross State Product in 1993-94.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*

## Gross State Product

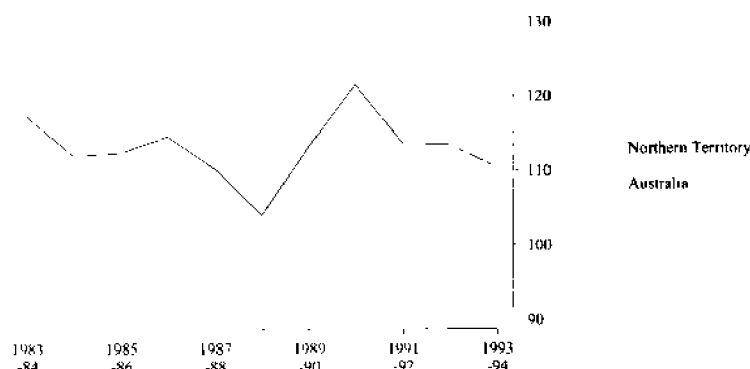
Economic activity at the State/Territory level is measured by Gross State Product (GSP). This measure of economic production is produced by summing the incomes generated in the production process - i.e. wages, salaries and supplements and gross operating surplus plus indirect taxes less subsidies.

The Northern Territory's GSP at current prices was \$4,548 million in 1993-94. In constant price terms (average 1989-90 prices) GSP was estimated to be \$4,376 million, an increase of 7.3 per cent from 1992-93 and the second highest growth of any State or Territory. This was an improvement on the previous year in which the Northern Territory's economy recorded the lowest growth of any State or Territory, partly due to disruptions to oil and uranium production.

### Gross State Product per head

The Northern Territory's contribution to Gross State Product per head of mean population over the 10 years ending 1993-94 is characterised by sharp peaks and troughs, mostly reflecting changes in gross product for the mining industry. Despite these fluctuations, the Northern Territory's contribution to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during this period has been consistently higher than the Australian contribution over the same period (Graph 4.1). In 1993-94, the Northern Territory's contribution per head of mean population at current prices was \$26,674 which was 10.5 per cent greater than the Australian GDP contribution per head of mean population of \$24,146.

GRAPH 4.1 RATIO OF GSP TO GDP PER HEAD OF MEAN POPULATION  
(AUSTRALIA = 100.0)



Source: ABS Catalogue No 5220.0

### Contribution by industry sector

In the Northern Territory over the 10 years ending 1993-94, there has been a relative shift in the contribution to Gross State Product at Factor Cost (GSP(fc)) from goods-producing industries to service-providing industries (Table 4.1). Over the period 1983-84 to 1993-94, all goods-producing industries recorded proportional decreases in contribution to GSP(fc), with the construction sector recording the greatest decline, falling from 10.2 per cent of GSP(fc) in 1983-84 to 8.9 per cent in 1993-94. Other sectors whose proportional contributions declined over the same period were: manufacturing (falling 0.9 percentage points); mining (falling 0.5 percentage points); and agriculture, forestry and fishing (falling 0.2 percentage points).

### The Territory's manufacturing industry

In 1992-93 there were 171 manufacturing establishments in the Northern Territory employing 2,741 people and producing a turnover of \$698.9 million. Almost two-thirds of these establishments were concentrated in four industries: metal products (40 or 23.4 per cent); machinery and equipment (28 or 16.4 per cent); and food, beverages and tobacco and printing, publishing and recorded media (both 22 or 12.9 per cent).

The Northern Territory's manufacturing industry is very small due to the small local market and the vast distances from major urban markets in Australia. Over the period 1983-84 to 1993-94, the industry contributed an average of only 4.9 per cent to the Northern Territory's Gross State Product.

To stimulate manufacturing in the Territory, and thereby broaden its economic base, the Northern Territory Government established the Trade Development Zone in 1985.

The Trade Development Zone is located on 200 hectares of prime industrial land next to the new port development at East Arm, 15 kilometres south of Darwin. It is Australia's first and only export-oriented industrial estate with tax and duty benefits specifically designed to enhance Australia's trade with Asia.

To be eligible for entry into the Trade Development Zone, potential tenants must be carrying on a business which is:

- substantially importing and/or exporting;
- involved in **import replacement** in the Northern Territory;
- a licenced **warehouse operation**; or
- ancillary to another business within the Trade Development Zone.

At April 1996 the Zone had 22 tenant companies which manufacture, import and export a wide range of goods and services. These companies range from cardboard and packaging manufactures to sophisticated research and development and engineering-based manufactures. Other companies include: international financial consultants; suppliers to the expanding mining, oil and gas industry; traders in food commodities; and live cattle exports. An Australian brewery has also been established and will export 80 per cent of its beer to Asia.

*Sources: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0 and 8221.7 and the Trade Development Zone Authority.*

In contrast to the goods-producing industries, most of the service-providing sectors recorded increases in their contributions to GSP(fc) over the period 1983-84 to 1993-94. The highest increase was recorded in the finance and insurance sector (up 1.5 percentage points) followed by wholesale and retail trade (up 1.2 percentage points).

The industry sectors which provided the greatest contribution to the Northern Territory's GSP in 1993-94 were: mining (\$851 million or 20.1 per cent); wholesale and retail trade (\$507 million or 12.0 per cent); construction (\$375 million or 8.9 per cent); and government administration and defence (\$330 million or 7.8 per cent).



**TABLE 4.1 CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST BY INDUSTRY SUBDIVISION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Industry subdivision	Value 1993-94	Contribution to GSP(fc)	
		1983-84	1993-94
	\$m	%	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	135	3.4	3.2
Mining	851	20.6	20.1
Manufacturing	200	5.6	4.7
Electricity, gas and water	94	2.7	2.2
Construction	375	10.2	8.9
Wholesale and retail trade	507	10.8	12.0
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	133	2.2	3.1
Transport and storage	211	5.9	5.0
Communication	96	1.9	2.3
Finance and insurance	119	1.3	2.8
Property and business services	249	5.6	5.9
Government administration and defence	330	9.3	7.8
Education	218	5.0	5.2
Health and community services	217	4.5	5.1
Cultural, recreational, personal and other services	190	4.2	4.5
Ownership of dwellings	220	5.3	5.2
General government	84	1.6	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,229</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0

There are substantial differences in the structure of industry in the Territory when compared to that generally existing across Australia. This is due to the Territory's relatively dominant mining sector, a relatively small and narrow manufacturing sector and a relatively large public sector. The major differences in contributions to GSP(fc) by industry sector for the Northern Territory and Australia are highlighted below.

- Mining remains the most important industry in the Northern Territory, contributing 20.1 per cent to total GSP(fc) in 1993-94. This is the highest percentage contribution by any industry of all States and Territories and compares to 4.3 per cent nationally.
- The Northern Territory has the second highest percentage contribution to total GSP(fc) from the government administration and defence sector at 7.8 per cent, compared to 4.0 per cent nationally. The ACT has the highest percentage contribution at 26.2 per cent.
- The Territory has the lowest percentage contribution to total GSP(fc) of all States and Territories from ownership of dwellings (5.2 per cent compared to 9.7 per cent nationally) and the second lowest contribution from the manufacturing sector (4.7 per cent compared to 14.8 per cent nationally).

### Defence - an emerging industry

Defence is emerging as a major industry in the Northern Territory as the Australian Defence Force relocates more of its forces to Northern Australia and regional nations make greater use of Defence facilities in the area.

#### Air Force

During the 1980s the Australian Defence Force began a major redevelopment of RAAF Base Tindal, 330 kilometres south of Darwin (near Katherine), to enable the basing of a squadron of F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft there. The RAAF also developed an air weapons range at Delamere, 640 kilometres south-west of Darwin, which is used regularly by Australian, United States and Republic of Singapore Air Forces from bases at Darwin and Tindal. The RAAF will continue to expand its presence in the Top End with ongoing development at Tindal and new facilities at Darwin.

#### Army

In 1991 the Army began relocating 2,200 soldiers and their families from New South Wales and Victoria to Darwin under a 10 year plan to move most of a Brigade of troops to the Top End. The project, which is now nearing the half way mark, will result in capital investment of more than \$500 million in construction of working and living accommodation for the soldiers during the 1990s. In addition, about \$200 million is being invested in new Defence housing in the Darwin and nearby Palmerston areas over the same period. Known as 'Army Presence in the North', the project is the biggest single construction project in Darwin since the reconstruction of the city after its devastation by Cyclone Tracy in December 1974.

The Army recently acquired Bradshaw Station in the Victoria River district of the Top End and will spend the next three years conducting environmental studies and undertaking construction works before using it as a training area for manoeuvre forces.

#### Navy

The Royal Australian Navy recently upgraded its patrol boat basing facilities in Darwin and plans to base two new hydrographic ships in the port from the late 1990s. In addition, the Navy is considering further expansion of its support facilities in Darwin to enable the basing of six larger Offshore Patrol Combatant ships there from the turn of the century.

Darwin hosts about 30 ship visits a year. Each alternate year a major maritime activity involving six regional nations is held off Northern Australia, bringing up to 20 ships and 4,000 personnel to Darwin for two weeks of training. Each other year a Royal Australian Navy's fleet concentration period is held in the Darwin area involving about 15 ships and 2,500 personnel.

#### Expenditure

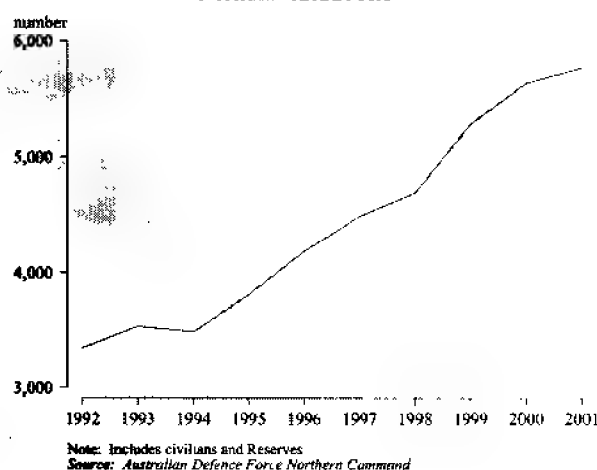
Defence currently spends \$260 million a year in the Northern Territory comprising \$99 million in salaries, \$79 million in operating costs and an average of \$82 million a year in capital expenditure. As the construction phase of the Army relocation reaches its conclusion, annual capital expenditure is expected to fall but will be matched by an increase in operating costs of the additional units based in the Darwin area.

*(continued next page)*

### Personnel

At June 1996 there were 4,185 Defence personnel in the Northern Territory, including civilians and Reserves. This is expected to rise to 5,772 by June 2001.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL AT 30 JUNE,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY



Note: Includes civilians and Reserves

Source: Australian Defence Force Northern Command

With a likely increase in naval forces, Defence is assured of remaining a key segment of the Northern Territory economy well into the next century.

*This special article was prepared by Australian Defence Force Northern Command.*

## Public finance

### Revenue

Total revenue for the Northern Territory Government in 1994-95 was \$1,512 million, an increase of \$237 million (18.6 per cent) from 1989-90 (Table 4.2).

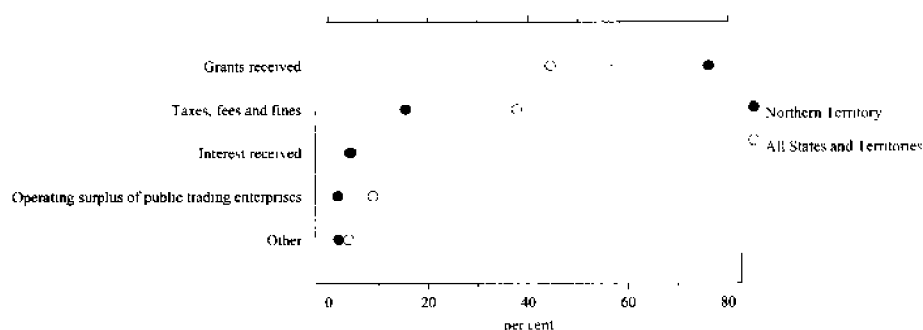
**TABLE 4.2 NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE**

Source	1989-90	1994-95p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Grants received	1,005	1,150	14.4
Taxes, fees and fines	141	236	67.4
Interest received	51	65	27.5
Net operating surplus of public trading enterprises	51	30	-41.2
Other	27	32	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>18.6</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5501.0

The Northern Territory Government's main source of revenue is Commonwealth grants. Commonwealth grants accounted for 76.1 per cent (\$1,150 million) of total revenue for the Northern Territory Government in 1994-95. This was the single highest percentage contribution for any State or Territory Government and was considerably higher than the average of 44.5 per cent for all State and Territory Governments combined (Graph 4.2).

GRAPH 4.2 PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE  
BY SOURCE, 1994-95



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5501.0

The Northern Territory Government also has the lowest percentage contribution from taxes, fees and fines. Taxes, fees and fines accounted for only 15.6 per cent (\$236 million) of total revenue compared to 37.8 per cent for all State and Territory Governments combined.

TABLE 4.3 TAXES, FEES AND FINES COLLECTED BY THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

	1989-90	1994-95p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
<i>Employers' payroll taxes</i>	45	58	28.9
<i>Taxes on property</i>	25	50	100.0
<i>Taxes on gambling</i>	11	20	81.8
<i>Taxes on insurance</i>	2	6	200.0
<i>Total taxes on provisions of goods and services</i>	13	26	100.0
<i>Motor vehicle taxes</i>	15	21	40.0
<i>Franchise taxes</i>	36	71	97.2
<i>Other taxes on use of goods etc</i>	2	6	200.0
<i>Total taxes on use of goods and performance of activities</i>	54	97	79.6
<i>Compulsory fees</i>	1	4	300.0
<i>Fines</i>	2	2	—
<i>Total fees and fines</i>	4	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>67.4</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5506.0

Taxes on the use of goods and performance of activities (such as motor vehicle taxes and petroleum, tobacco and liquor franchise taxes) are the main source of taxation revenue in the Territory (\$97 million or 41.1 per cent) (Table 4.3) while taxes on property are the main source of taxation revenue for all State and Territory Governments combined (27.7 per cent).

The other sources of revenue for the Northern Territory Government in 1994-95 were: interest received (\$65 million or 4.3 per cent); net operating surplus of public trading enterprises (PTEs) (\$30 million or 2.0 per cent); and other revenue (\$32 million or 2.1 per cent).

#### Outlays

Total outlays by the Northern Territory Government amounted to \$1,586 million in 1994-95, an increase of \$161 million (11.3 per cent) from 1989-90.

- Final consumption expenditure (i.e. current expenditure less sales of goods and services) accounted for the largest proportion of total outlays in 1994-95 at \$975 million (61.5 per cent).

The major outlays by purpose were education (\$337 million or 21.2 per cent) and health (\$245 million or 15.4 per cent) (Table 4.4).

- Gross fixed capital expenditure accounted for \$226 million (14.2 per cent) of total outlays and interest payments accounted for \$213 million (13.4 per cent).

**TABLE 4.4 NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS BY PURPOSE**

Purpose	1989-90	1994-95p	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
General public services	128	171	33.6
Public order and safety	108	145	34.3
Education	252	337	33.7
Health	174	245	40.8
Social security and welfare	31	38	22.6
Housing and community amenities	97	50	-48.5
Recreation and culture	52	76	46.2
Fuel and energy	73	54	-26
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	54	44	-18.5
Mining, manufacturing and construction	24	15	-37.5
Transport and communications	116	108	-6.9
Other economic affairs	109	62	-43.1
Other purposes	208	242	16.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5501.0

#### Net financial position

The liabilities of the Northern Territory Government at 30 June 1995 were \$2,110 million. Offset against this amount are the financial assets held in the form of cash and deposits, advances paid and other lending. The value of these assets

held at 30 June 1995 was \$700 million, giving the Northern Territory Government a net debt of \$1,409 million at that time.

### Further reading

#### ABS publications

*A Guide to the Australian National Accounts* (5235.0)  
*Australian Business Expectations* (5250.0)  
*Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (5204.0) (annual)  
*Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (5206.0) (quarterly)  
*Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables* (5209.0)  
*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (5220.0) (annual)  
*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (5242.0) (quarterly)  
*Australian National Accounts: Capital Stock* (5221.0)  
*Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk* (5228.0)  
*Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts* (5232.0)  
*Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0)  
*Government Financial Estimates, Australia* (5501.0)  
*Government Finance Statistics, Australia* (5512.0)  
*Government Finance Statistics - Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5514.0)  
*Public Sector Financial Assets and Liabilities, Australia* (5513.0)  
*Taxation Revenue, Australia* (5506.0)  
*Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (8221.0)  
*Manufacturing Industry, Northern Territory* (8221.7)

#### Non-ABS publications

Trade Development Zone Authority, *Trade Development Zone Information Package*  
Trade Development Zone Authority, *Tenant Information Sheet*





**New arrivals in Darwin**

The Northern Territory has the highest birth rate of any State or Territory.

*Photo: Northern Territory News*



### Population estimates

#### Basis of estimates

The Census of Population and Housing is held every five years and is the most comprehensive source of information about the population. The census provides the basis of all subsequent population estimates. Estimates at State and Territory level are made quarterly and are derived from census counts by the addition of actual measures of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and net overseas migration and of estimates of net interstate migration. Estimates at sub-Territory level are made annually and are also derived from census counts but the measures of population change are more complex and varied.

#### Estimated resident population

At 30 June 1995 the estimated resident population of the Northern Territory was 173,878, an increase of 2,806 (1.6 per cent) since June 1994. This was the third highest rate of growth for any State or Territory and 0.4 percentage points higher than the national average of 1.2 per cent. The Northern Territory population represents about one per cent of Australia's total of 18.1 million.

The vast majority (119,700 or 68.8 per cent) of people in the Northern Territory live in the six major urban centres (Table 5.1).

**TABLE 5.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION FOR SELECTED AREAS AT 30 JUNE, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Area	1985	1995p	Average annual growth rate
	'000	'000	%
Darwin City	67.6	66.8	-0.1
Palmerston-East Arm	4.6	12.2	16.5
Alice Springs (T)	21.4	25.1	1.7
Nhulunbuy	3.8	3.8	—
Tennant Creek (T)	3.2	3.0	-0.6
Katherine (T)	4.8	8.8	8.3
Other areas	43.1	54.2	2.6
<b>Total Northern Territory</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>173.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3201.7

At 30 June 1995 the projected population (medium series) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Territory was 47,681, an increase of 993 (2.1 per cent) since 30 June 1994. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent just over one-quarter (27.4 per cent) of the Territory's population.

#### Regional population growth

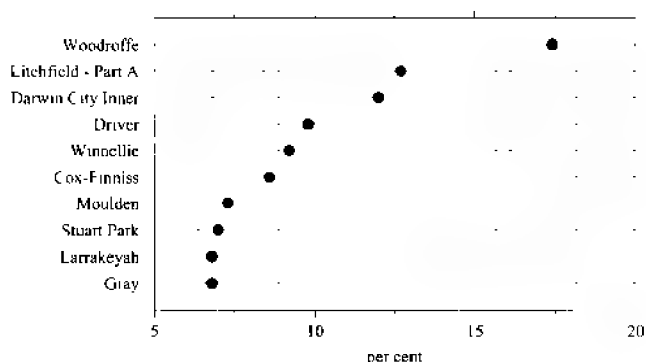
During the 10 years to 30 June 1995 the Palmerston-East Arm statistical subdivision experienced the highest rate of growth of all Northern Territory statistical subdivisions, increasing by an average annual rate of 16.5 per cent (Table 5.1). Katherine also experienced strong growth over this period, increasing by an average of 8.3 per cent per year.

## Population

During 1994-95 the Palmerston-East Arm statistical subdivision continued its record of strong growth, experiencing a 9.2 per cent (1,032) increase in its population. This growth was due in part to the availability of land and the continuing expansion of the defence force presence in the Territory which has seen infantry and cavalry regiments and many defence force families relocate from the southern States to Palmerston.

The fastest growing statistical local areas during the year were Woodroffe (a suburb of Palmerston) (361 or 17.4 per cent), Litchfield Shire (Part A) (66 or 12.7 per cent) and Darwin City Inner (175 or 12.0 per cent) (Graph 5.1).

GRAPH 5.1 FASTEST GROWING STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30 JUNE 1994 TO 30 JUNE 1995

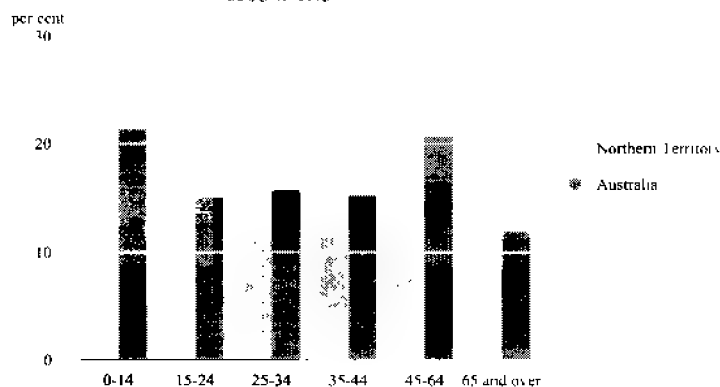


Source: ABS Catalogue No 3201.7

## Age distribution

The age structure of the Northern Territory is quite different from that of the total Australian population. At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of people aged under 15 years of any State or Territory (48,215 or 27.7 per cent compared to the national figure of 3.9 million or 21.4 per cent). It also had the lowest proportion of people aged 65 years and over (5,534 or 3.2 per cent compared to the national figure of 2.2 million or 11.9 per cent) (Graph 5.2).

GRAPH 5.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No 3201.0

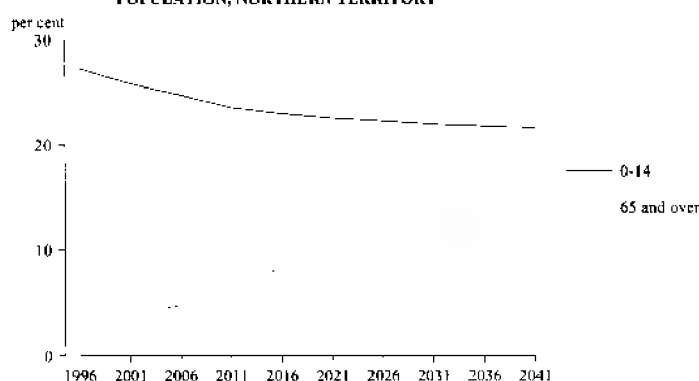
At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory was the only State or Territory with a median age less than 30 years (28.3 years). Although the median age of Territorians has increased by 4.5 years over the last 20 years, it is still 5.4 years lower than the national median age of 33.7 years.

**Sex distribution** At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of males of any State or Territory (89,425 or 51.4 per cent). The Northern Territory sex ratio (that is, the number of males per 100 females) was 105.9 which was considerably higher than the national figure of 99.2.

**Population projections** The Australian Bureau of Statistics regularly publishes projections of population by age and sex for Australia and the States and Territories. These projections reveal the size, structure and distribution of the future population if various assumptions are made about the components of change (births, deaths and migration).

Projections for the Northern Territory indicate that the Territory will experience above-average rates of growth over the next 45 years. In the year 2016 the Northern Territory is expected to have a population of between 221,100 and 244,000, increasing to between 260,600 and 325,300 in 2041. The median age is expected to be between 31.2 and 32.5 years in 2016, rising to between 32.4 and 35.0 years in 2041. This trend towards an ageing population is illustrated in Graph 5.3.

**GRAPH 5.3 PROJECTED POPULATION OF PERSONS AGED 0-14 AND 65 YEARS AND OVER AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**



Note: There are four different projected population series published by the ABS. This graph uses data from Series 4.  
Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3222.0

## Population census

The Census of Population and Housing is held every five years and collects information about the number, geographic distribution and characteristics of people and dwellings on census night in Australia.

Censuses are the largest collections undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data obtained as a result of each census provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the resident population for each State, Territory and statistical local area. While population estimates are used primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funding, census data are used by governments, businesses and others to support their planning, administration and policy decisions.

The last census took place on 6 August 1996 and the previous census took place on 6 August 1991.

**Population count** A total of 175,891 people were counted in the Northern Territory on the night of the 1991 Census, an increase of 21,043 (13.6 per cent) over the 1986 Census (Table 5.2). This figure included 19,388 people who were visiting the Territory from interstate or overseas. Records show that Darwin's population decreased from 46,656 in June 1974 to 25,732 in April 1975 following Cyclone Tracy.

**TABLE 5.2 POPULATION COUNTS (a) FOR SELECTED AREAS, NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)**

	Darwin	Alice Springs	Katherine	Tennant Creek	Nhulunbuy	Northern Territory
1871	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	201
1881	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,451
1891	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,898
1901	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,811
1911	1,082	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,310
1921	1,399	231	106	n.a.	n.a.	3,867
1933	1,566	526	213	n.a.	n.a.	4,850
1947	2,538	2,078	371	695	n.a.	10,868
1954	8,071	2,785	596	977	n.a.	16,469
1961	12,326	4,648	826	1,368	n.a.	27,095
1966	21,540	6,634	2,180	1,680	n.a.	56,504
1971	37,060	11,179	2,522	1,794	4,400	86,390
1974	46,656	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	101,233
1975	25,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	87,584
1976	43,344	14,194	3,127	2,236	3,553	97,090
1979	50,612	16,274	3,241	2,411	3,644	115,900
1981	56,482	18,395	3,737	3,118	3,879	123,324
1986	72,937	22,759	5,691	3,503	3,515	154,848
1991	78,400	25,585	9,372	3,480	3,934	175,891

(a) Population counts include visitors and not just residents.

(b) Figures prior to 1966 do not include all Aboriginal people.

Source: ABS Darwin

## Birthplace

Almost one-fifth (32,721 or 18.6 per cent) of people in the Northern Territory on Census night in 1991 indicated that they were born overseas. This figure included 3,086 people who were visiting the Territory from overseas.

Half (16,383 or 50.1 per cent) of those people who indicated they were born overseas were from English-speaking countries, mainly the United Kingdom (10,038 or 30.7 per cent of all overseas born) and New Zealand (3,842 or 11.7 per cent). The main non-English speaking countries of origin were the Philippines (1,583 or 4.8 per cent of all overseas born), Indonesia (1,550 or 4.7 per cent) and Germany (1,475 or 4.5 per cent).

## Indigenous population

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are an integral part of the history and culture of the Northern Territory. Data about the Indigenous population has been collected in every census since federation but, prior to the repeal of section 127 of the Constitution in 1967, only those deemed to be of less than half Aboriginal origin were included in the official population figures for the States and Territories.

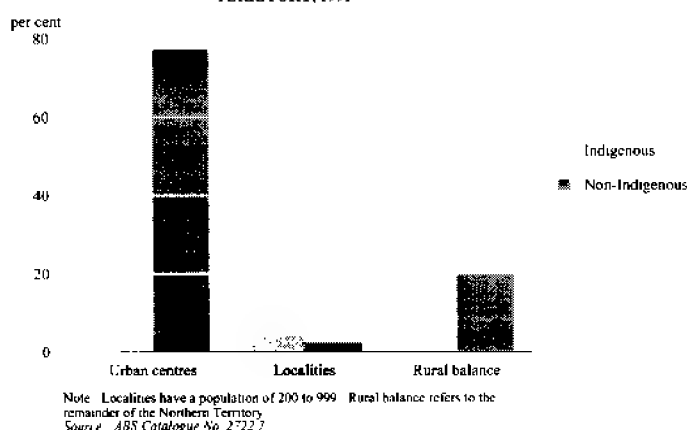
Since then the Australian Bureau of Statistics has made considerable efforts to collect data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, through the census and other surveys, which are as comprehensive as the data gathered from the rest of the Australian population.

## Population count

At the 1991 Census nearly one-quarter (39,910 or 22.7 per cent) of the Northern Territory population identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, an increase of 5,171 (14.9 per cent) over the 1986 Census. This proportion rises to about 26 per cent if visitors are excluded and is the highest proportion of any State or Territory. Indigenous people in the Northern Territory represented 15 per cent of Australia's Indigenous population (265,459) at that time.

Unlike the non-Indigenous population which is concentrated in urban centres with a population of 1,000 or more (105,220 or 77.4 per cent), the majority of Indigenous people (26,121 or 65.4 per cent) live in rural areas with a population of less than 1,000. More than one-third (15,636 or 39.2 per cent) of Indigenous people live in communities with a population of less than 200 (Graph 5.4).

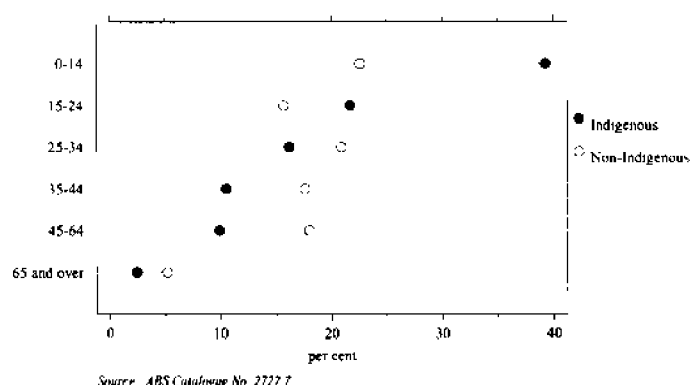
GRAPH 5.4 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991



## Age distribution

The age distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is markedly different from that of the total Northern Territory population (Graph 5.5). The main differences are in the younger and older age groups. In 1991, 39.3 per cent (15,675) of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory were aged 0-14 years compared with 22.6 per cent of the non-Indigenous population. Conversely, only 12.3 per cent (4,916) of Indigenous people were aged 45 years and over compared with 23.2 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

GRAPH 5.5 POPULATION BY AGE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991



## Population

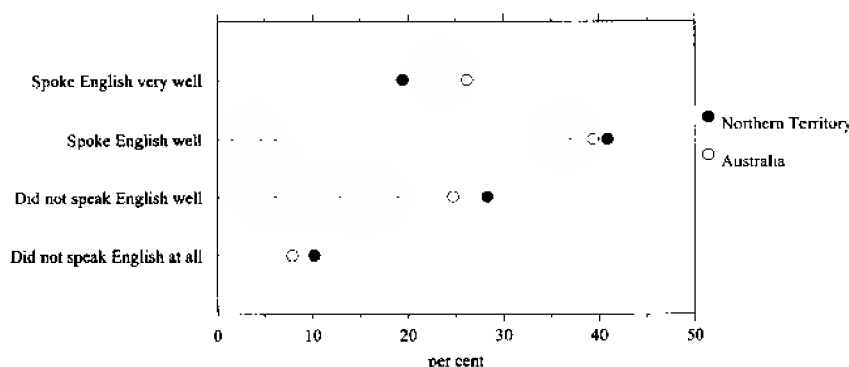
### Sex distribution

At the 1991 Census, the Northern Territory had the second lowest proportion of males of any State or Territory (19,606 or 49.1 per cent). The Northern Territory sex ratio (that is, the number of males per 100 females) was 96.6 which was lower than the national figure of 98.1.

### Language

At the 1991 Census almost four in five (25,753 or 79.0 per cent) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory aged 5 years and over spoke an Indigenous language at home. This was the highest proportion for any State or Territory and much higher than the national average of 19.9 per cent (43,499).

GRAPH 5.6 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER:  
PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, 1991



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 2740.0

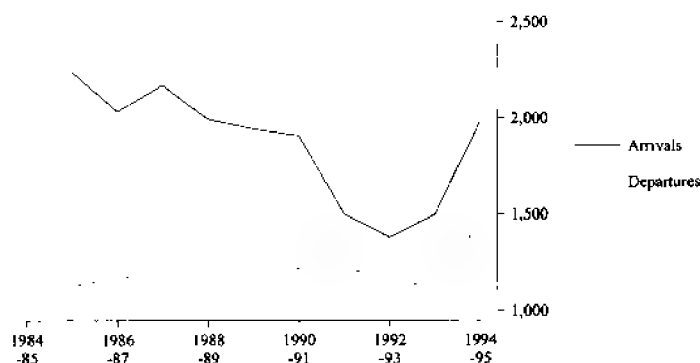
More than one-third (9,920 or 38.5 per cent) of those who indicated that they spoke an Indigenous language also indicated that they did not speak English well or could not speak English at all, slightly higher than the national average of 32.7 per cent (14,208) (Graph 5.6).

## Overseas migration

### Arrivals

During 1994-95 there were 496 permanent and 1,486 long-term (settler) arrivals who stated the Northern Territory as their State/Territory of intended residence (long-term arrivals refers to people who intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more but not permanently). This was an increase of 484 (32.3 per cent) on the previous year and the highest intake since 1988-89 (Graph 5.7).

GRAPH 5.7 PERMANENT AND LONG TERM ARRIVALS AND  
DEPARTURES, NORTHERN TERRITORY,  
1985-86 TO 1994-95



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3412.0

The largest proportion of permanent arrivals in the Northern Territory during 1994-95 were from South East Asia (224 or 45.2 per cent). This was the highest proportion for any State or Territory and more than double the national figure of 17.0 per cent.

**Departures** During the year ended 30 June 1995 there were 270 permanent and 1,177 long-term departures for overseas by people who gave the Northern Territory as their State/Territory of residence. This was an increase of 25.0 per cent (289) on the previous year and the highest number of departures for more than 10 years (Graph 5.7).

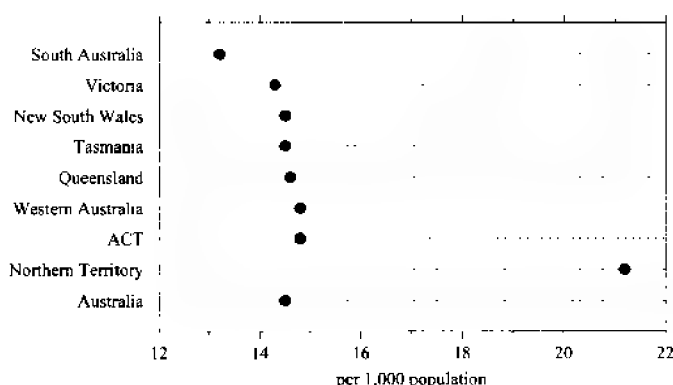
## Births

**Number of births** In 1994 there were 3,626 live births registered to mothers usually resident in the Northern Territory. Of these, 1,338 births (36.9 per cent) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births.

**Sex ratio** During the five years to 1994 the sex ratio at birth in the Northern Territory has fluctuated between 99.9 and 109.6 males per 100 females and was 100.6 in 1994.

**Birth rate** During the five years to 1994 the crude birth rate in the Northern Territory was relatively stable, averaging 21.6 births per 1,000 population. In 1994 the crude birth rate in the Northern Territory was 21.2, the highest rate of any State or Territory and considerably higher than the national rate of 14.5 (Graph 5.8).

GRAPH 5.8 CRUDE BIRTH RATE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1994



Source: ABS Catalogue No 3311

**Fertility rate** The total fertility rate represents the number of children that one woman would bear if the age-specific rates of the year shown continued during her child-bearing lifetime. In 1994 the total fertility rate in the Northern Territory was 2.3. This was the highest rate of any State or Territory and significantly higher than the rate of 1.8 nationally. The relatively high rate for the Northern Territory is due to the high fertility rate of 2.9 for Indigenous mothers.

**Age of mother** The median age of the mother for all confinements in the Northern Territory has remained relatively stable during the five years to 1994, averaging 26.6 years over the period. In 1994 the median age of the mother was 26.7 years, the lowest age of any State or Territory and 2.3 years less than the national median age of 29.0 years. The median age of Indigenous mothers was 22.7 years, four years less than the Territory median age.

### Deaths

#### Number of deaths

In 1994 there were 776 registered deaths of persons usually resident in the Northern Territory. Almost half of these deaths (380 or 49.0 per cent) were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander deaths.

Of these 776 registered deaths in 1994, 41 were infant deaths (that is, deaths of children aged less than one year), a decrease of 14 deaths (25.5 per cent) compared to 1993. Of these, 25 (61.0 per cent) were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander deaths.

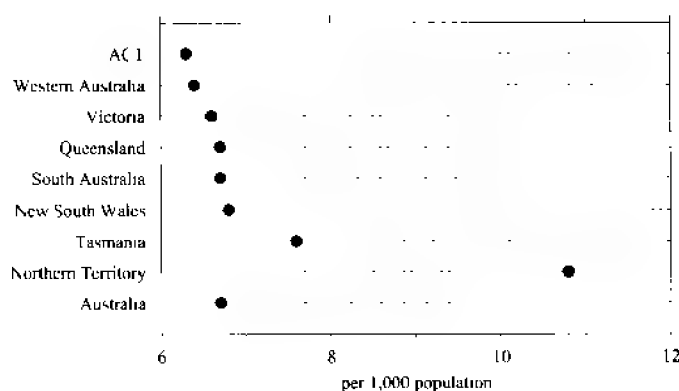
#### Infant mortality rate

The infant mortality rate for the Northern Territory was 11.3 per 1,000 live births in 1994. While this was the lowest rate for the Territory in the five years to 1994, it was still the highest rate of any State or Territory and more than double the national rate of 5.9. The Northern Territory rate is affected more than the other States and the Australian Capital Territory by the higher infant mortality rate among Indigenous people.

#### Death rate

The average standardised death rate in the Northern Territory during the five years to 1994 was 10.9 per 1,000 population. In 1994 the death rate was 10.8 per 1,000 population. This was the highest rate of any State or Territory and well above the national rate of 6.7 (Graph 5.9). The standardised death rate for Indigenous people in the Territory was 26.8 per 1,000 in 1994, almost three times higher than the rate for the Territory as a whole.

GRAPH 5.9 STANDARDISED DEATH RATE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1994



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3311.7

#### Age at death

In 1994 the median age at death in the Northern Territory was 53.9 years for males and 64.0 years for females. These figures are well below the corresponding national median ages of 73.5 years for males and 80.2 years for females. The median age at death increased by 2.3 years during the five years to 1994 for males and by 5.8 years for females.

The median age at death for all Indigenous people in the Northern Territory in 1994 was only 49.7 years, considerably lower than the age for all Territorians.

#### Causes of death

The three major causes of death in the Northern Territory in 1994 were:

- heart disease (158 or 20.4 per cent);



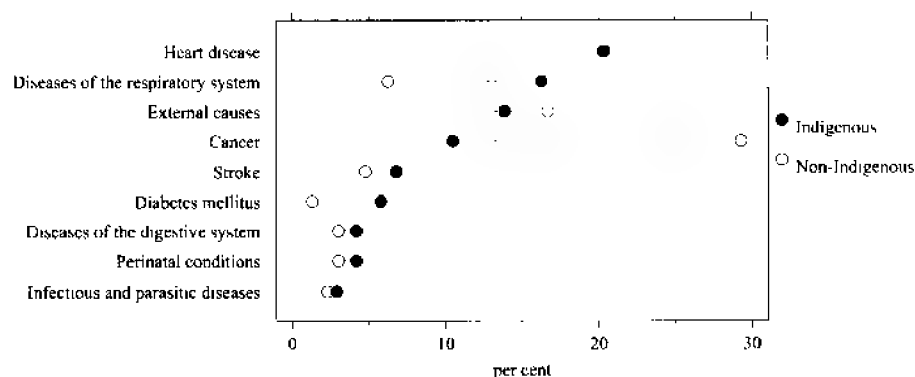
- cancer (156 or 20.1 per cent); and
- external causes (such as accidents, poisonings, drownings and suicides) (119 or 15.3 per cent).

The proportion of deaths caused by diseases of the circulatory system (including heart disease) and cancer increased from 39.9 per cent (312) in 1990 to 48.7 per cent (378) of all deaths in 1994. The proportion of deaths due to external causes declined from 23.9 per cent (187) to 15.3 per cent (119) of all deaths over the same period.

The major causes of death amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 1994 were:

- heart disease (77 or 20.3 per cent compared to 81 or 20.4 per cent of the non-Indigenous population);
- diseases of the respiratory system (62 or 16.3 per cent compared to 25 or 6.3 per cent for the non-Indigenous population); and
- external causes (53 or 13.9 per cent compared to 66 or 16.7 per cent for the non-Indigenous population) (Graph 5.10).

GRAPH 5.10 SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994



The proportion of deaths caused by diabetes mellitus was four times higher for the Indigenous population (22 or 5.8 per cent) than the non-Indigenous population (27 or 1.3 per cent).

## Life expectancy

The life expectancy of Northern Territory residents at birth in 1994 was 69.1 years for males and 73.6 years for females. During the five years to 1994, life expectancy improved by 2.6 years for males and by 1.3 years for females.

In 1993 Gray and Tesfaghiorghis from the Australian National University concluded that the estimated life expectancy of the Territory's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at birth during the period 1986 to 1991 was 55.1 years for males and 61.8 years for females. ('Aboriginal population prospects', Journal of the Australian Population Association, Vol. 10 (2) ).

## Marriages

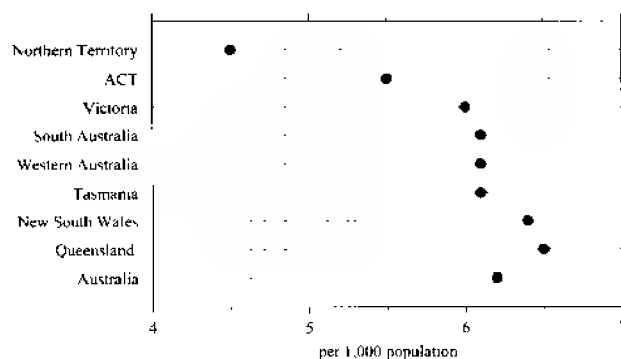
### Marriage rate

In 1994 there were 765 marriages registered in the Northern Territory, a rate of 4.5 marriages per 1,000 population. This was the lowest rate of marriage of any State or Territory and was less than the national rate of 6.2 (Graph 5.11). The

## Population

Territory's crude marriage rate has remained relatively stable during the five years to 1994, averaging at 4.9 per 1,000 population.

GRAPH 5.11 CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1994



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3311.7

### Age at marriage

In 1994 the median age of marriage in the Northern Territory was 30.8 years for bridegrooms and 27.8 years for brides. These were the highest median age for both partners of any State or Territory and higher than the national median age of 29.0 years for bridegrooms and 26.6 years for brides.

The median age of marriage for both partners has increased steadily in the Northern Territory during the five years to 1994, increasing by an annual average of 0.1 years for both bridegrooms and brides over this period.

### Remarriage

Of all marriages registered in the Northern Territory in 1994, the majority of couples (448 or 58.6 per cent) were married for the first time. In 206 marriages (26.9 per cent) only one partner had been married before and in 111 marriages (14.5 per cent) both partners had been married before.

### Civil and religious ceremonies

The proportion of marriages performed by civil celebrants and by ministers of religion in the Northern Territory have remained reasonably steady during the five years to 1994. Almost two-thirds (483 or 63.1 per cent) of marriages in the Northern Territory in 1994 were performed by civil celebrants. This was the highest proportion of civil ceremonies of any State or Territory and 20.0 percentage points higher than the national average of 43.1 per cent.

## Further reading

### ABS publications

- 1991 Census - Census Characteristics of Northern Territory (2710.7)
- 1991 Census - CDATA91, Northern Territory (CD-ROM) (2721.7)
- 1991 Census - Community Profiles, Northern Territory (2722.7)
- 1991 Census - Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, Northern Territory (floppy disk) (2725.7)
- 1991 Census - Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (2740.0)
- 1991 Census - Census Counts, Selected Areas, Northern Territory (2800.7)
- 1991 Census - Final Counts for Selected Areas, Northern Territory (2801.7)
- 1991 Census - Final Counts of Persons by Age and Sex for Selected Areas, Northern Territory (2802.7)
- 1991 Census - Ethnicity Package on Hardcopy, Northern Territory (2803.7)

1991 Census - Australia in Profile (2821.0)  
1991 Census - Social Atlas, Darwin (2840.7)  
Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)  
Australian Demographic Trends (3102.0)  
Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)  
Estimated Resident Population, Northern Territory Statistical Local Areas (3201.7)  
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory (3207.7)  
Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)  
Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories, 1993 to 2041 (3222.0)  
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Australia: Data on Floppy Disk (3227.0)  
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Northern Territory: Data on Floppy Disk (3227.7)  
Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (3230.0)  
Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (3231.0)  
Experimental Estimated Resident Population Northern Territory Community Government Councils and Incorporated Associations (3233.7)  
Births, Australia (3301.0)  
Deaths, Australia (3302.0)  
Causes of Death, Australia (3303.0)  
Suicides, Australia (3309.0)  
Marriages and Divorces, Australia (3310.0)  
Demography, Northern Territory (3311.7)  
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3401.0)  
Migration, Australia (3412.0)  
The Nature of Movement into and out of the Northern Territory as shown by the 1991 Census (3402.7)  
Northern Territory's Indigenous People (4107.7)  
Northern Territory's Young People (4123.7)

**Non-ABS publications**

Plant A J, Condon J R and Durling G, *Northern Territory Health Outcomes: Morbidity and Mortality 1979-1991* (1995), NT Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin



**Primary school students at play**

The Northern Territory's staff to student ratio for primary and secondary schools is the lowest of any State or Territory.

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*



**Northern Territory University, Casuarina Campus**

More than 4,000 students are enrolled at the Territory's only university.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*

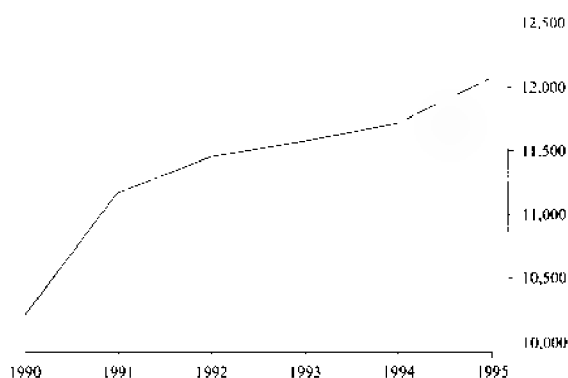
### Pre-school education

<b>Programs</b>	In 1995 there were 56 approved preschool programs attached to primary schools in the Northern Territory, an increase of two approved programs since 1990.
<b>Enrolments</b>	In 1995 there were 2,966 preschool students enrolled in approved programs in the Territory, an increase of 3.9 per cent (110) since 1994. During the five years to 1995 the number of preschool enrolments has increased by 22.8 per cent (551).
<b>Teachers</b>	In 1995 there were 82 full-time equivalent preschool teachers attached to primary schools in the Northern Territory, an increase of 9.3 per cent (7) since 1990.

### Primary and secondary education

<b>Schools</b>	In 1995 there were 148 government and 26 non-government primary, secondary and special education schools in the Northern Territory, an increase of three schools since 1990 (Table 6.1).
<b>Students</b>	In 1995 there were 34,842 full-time students at schools in the Northern Territory, an increase of 2.0 per cent (696) since 1994. The number of primary school students in the Territory increased by 1.1 per cent (265) from 24,351 in 1994 to 24,616 in 1995 while the number of secondary school students increased by 4.4 per cent (431) to 10,226 over the same period. During the five years to 1995 the total number of students in the Territory increased by 7.8 per cent (2,515) (Table 6.1) compared to 2.2 per cent nationally.
<b>Indigenous students</b>	During the five years to 1995 the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students increased by an average 0.6 percentage points a year, from 31.6 per cent of all students in 1990 to 34.7 per cent in 1995.

GRAPH 6.1 FULL-TIME ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 4221.0

In 1995 there were 12,074 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Of these, 9,169 (75.9 per cent) were attending primary schools while the remaining 2,905 (24.1 per cent) were attending secondary schools. A majority (9,839 or 81.5 per cent) attended government schools.

**TABLE 6.1 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS BY CATEGORY OF SCHOOL, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1990	1995	Change over period
	No.	No.	%
Schools -			
Government schools	147	148	0.7
Non-government schools	24	26	8.3
<i>Total schools</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>1.8</i>
Full-time students -			
Government schools	26,256	27,280	3.9
Non-government schools	6,071	7,562	24.6
<i>Total students</i>	<i>32,327</i>	<i>34,842</i>	<i>7.8</i>
Full-time teachers (a) -			
Government schools	1,986	2,028	2.1
Non-government schools	391	514	31.5
<i>Total teachers</i>	<i>2,376</i>	<i>2,543</i>	<i>7.0</i>

(a) Includes full-time equivalent of part-time teaching staff.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 4221.0

## Government and non-government school students

A majority of the Northern Territory's full-time students (27,280 or 78.3 per cent) in 1995 were attending government schools, down slightly from 78.9 per cent (26,934) in 1994. This was the highest proportion of students in government schools for any State or Territory and 7.3 percentage points higher than the national average of 71.0 per cent. During the five years to 1995 the proportion of students in government schools has declined an average 0.6 percentage points a year.

## Teachers

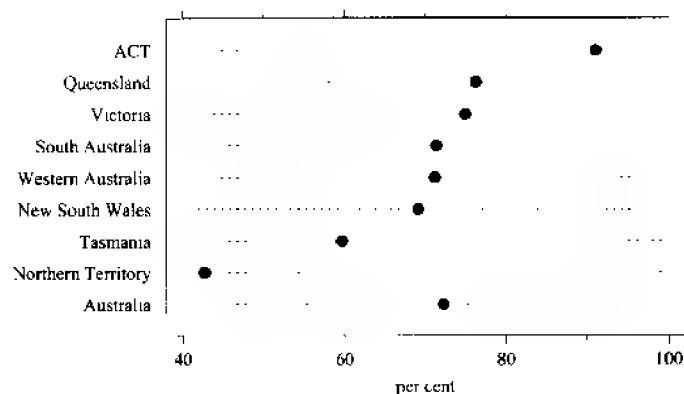
In 1995 there were 2,028 government and 514 non-government teachers in Northern Territory schools (Table 6.1), an overall increase of 7.0 per cent (167) since 1990. The Territory's staff to student ratio of 1:13.7 was the lowest of any State or Territory and lower than the national average of 1:15.4.

## Apparent retention rates

During the five years to 1995 the apparent retention rate of secondary school students to Year 12 in the Northern Territory varied between 42.7 per cent and 57.5 per cent. In 1995 the rate was 42.7 per cent. This was the lowest retention rate of any State or Territory and significantly lower than the national rate of 72.2 per cent (Graph 6.2).

With the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory was the only State or Territory in which the apparent retention rate of secondary school students in government schools was greater than that of students in non-government schools (44.4 per cent compared to 37.7 per cent).

GRAPH 6.2 APPARENT RETENTION RATES OF FULL-TIME  
SECONDARY STUDENTS TO YEAR 12,  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No 4221.0

## Higher education

### Enrolments

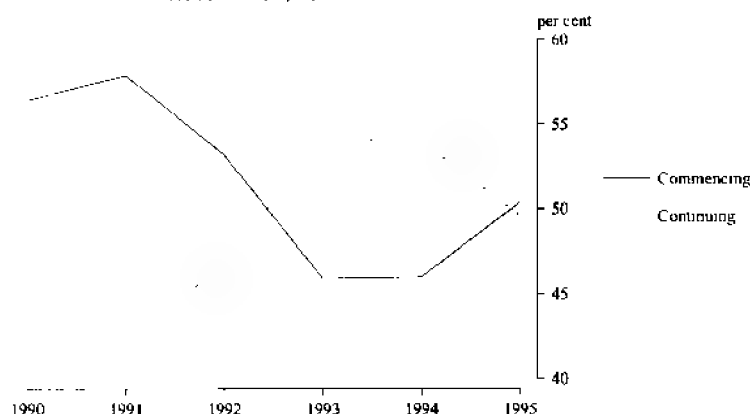
At 31 March 1995 there were 4,340 students enrolled in a total of 4,398 higher education courses at the Northern Territory University, the Territory's only university. This was an increase of 54.5 per cent (1,552) in enrolments since 1990. A further 553 students were enrolled in higher education courses at Batchelor College (refer to the special article in this chapter for more information about Batchelor College).

- Female enrolments accounted for 61.7 per cent (2,715) of all enrolments in 1995. The proportion of female enrolments has remained steady during the five years to 31 March 1995, averaging 59.8 per cent of enrolments.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments accounted for 4.8 per cent (212) of all enrolments in 1995, up from 2.5 per cent (70) in 1990.
- External and mixed mode (part internal and part external) enrolments increased from 8.3 per cent (235) of enrolments in 1990 to 14.3 per cent (627) of enrolments in 1995.

### Enrolment type

The proportions of commencing and continuing enrolments has fluctuated markedly during the five years to 31 March 1995 (Graph 6.3).

GRAPH 6.3 HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENTS BY ENROLMENT TYPE  
AT 31 MARCH, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: Northern Territory University, 1995 Statistics Report

### **Enrolments by faculty**

In 1995 commencing enrolments accounted for more than half (2,218) of the enrolments for the first time since 1992. About two-thirds (2,912) of all enrolments in 1995 were concentrated in the Education, Arts and Science faculties. Female enrolments were concentrated in the Education (869 or 32.0 per cent) and Arts (625 or 23.0 per cent) faculties while male enrolments were concentrated in the Science (428 or 25.4 per cent) and Business (396 or 23.5 per cent) faculties. Female enrolments in the Technology faculty (5 or 0.2 per cent) were negligible compared to male enrolments (69 or 4.1 per cent).

### **Batchelor College - tertiary educational opportunities for Aboriginal people**

Batchelor College provides a wide range of tertiary educational opportunities to Aboriginal people through programs and modes that are socially and culturally appropriate. The aim of the College is to enhance the access of Aboriginal people to professional and para-professional areas of occupation and to improve their access to general participation rates in the labour force.

The College provides a wide range of higher education and TAFE education courses including Teacher Education, Aboriginal Health Worker Training, Community Work, Community Management and Environmental Management. Courses are provided through a variety of modes including on-campus studies at Batchelor and 'remote' area modes of program delivery including the delivery in the home community and intensive workshops at regional centres.

In 1995 there were 553 students enrolled in higher education and 762 students enrolled in TAFE courses at Batchelor College. Female enrolments accounted for 71.1 per cent (393) of all higher education enrolments and 64.3 per cent (490) of all TAFE enrolments.

Aboriginal teaching staff accounted for 14.3 per cent (22) of all teaching staff at Batchelor College (154) in 1995.

## **Technical and Further Education (TAFE)**

### **Training framework**

The Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority is a government body responsible for the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of vocational education and training in the Northern Territory.

The Authority provides policy and planning advice on education and training, ensures the efficient, effective and equitable distribution of funding and ensures that the quality of outcomes in vocational education and training in the Territory meets the needs of industry and the community. It receives input from industry through national, State and Territory Industry Training Advisory Bodies which formulate advice on training and sponsor research on training related to particular industries.

### **Training providers**

There are a large number of TAFE training course providers in the Northern Territory including the Northern Territory University Institute of TAFE, Batchelor College, Centralian College, Northern Territory Rural College and the Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority.

### **Enrolments**

At 31 December 1994 there were 9,421 students enrolled in Vocational Education Training courses in the Northern Territory. More than half (5,289 or 56.1 per cent) of



these enrolments were at the Northern Territory University Institute of TAFE. Please note that the following figures refer only to these enrolments at the Institute of TAFE.

- During the five years to 31 December 1994 enrolments in TAFE vocational education training courses at the Institute of TAFE increased by 45.7 per cent (1,660).
- Male enrolments accounted for 63.3 per cent (3,350) of all enrolments in 1994. The proportion of female enrolments has declined overall during the five years to 31 December 1994, from 41.5 per cent (1,506) in 1989 to 36.7 per cent (1,939) in 1994 (Graph 6.4).

GRAPH 6.4 TAFE ENROLMENTS BY SEX AT 31 DECEMBER, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: Northern Territory University, 1995 Statistics Report

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments accounted for 16.1 per cent (851) of all enrolments in 1994, up from 11.5 per cent (417) in 1989.
- Part-time enrolments have decreased from 92.2 per cent (3,346) of enrolments in 1989 to 84.2 per cent (4,454) of enrolments in 1994.
- Total contact hours were concentrated in Initial Vocational (Stream 3000) courses, accounting for 83.1 per cent (1.4 million) in 1994. Pre-Vocational (Stream 2000) courses accounted for 16.1 per cent (262,274) while Subsequent to Initial Vocational (Stream 4000) and Multi-Stream courses accounted for the remaining 0.8 per cent (12,577).

About 300 students also enrolled in recreation, leisure and personal enrichment (Stream 1000) courses at the Institute of TAFE in 1994.

### Financial assistance

The Commonwealth Government provides financial assistance to students under the AUSTUDY, ABSTUDY and Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) schemes.

- AUSTUDY is a means-tested and non-competitive scheme of financial assistance to secondary and tertiary students aged 16 years and over. In 1996 AUSTUDY assisted 629 secondary and 1,127 tertiary students in the Northern Territory.
- ABSTUDY provides financial assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who undertake approved secondary or tertiary education

courses. Assistance is also available to primary students aged 14 years or over. Some ABSTUDY payments are income tested while others are not. In 1996 ABSTUDY assisted 2,727 secondary and 2,070 tertiary students in the Northern Territory.

- AIC assists the families of primary, secondary and, in limited cases, tertiary students who, because of geographic isolation, a disability or other reason (for example, family itinerancy) do not have reasonable daily access to appropriate government schooling. AIC is not means-tested. In 1996 AIC assisted 808 students in the Northern Territory.

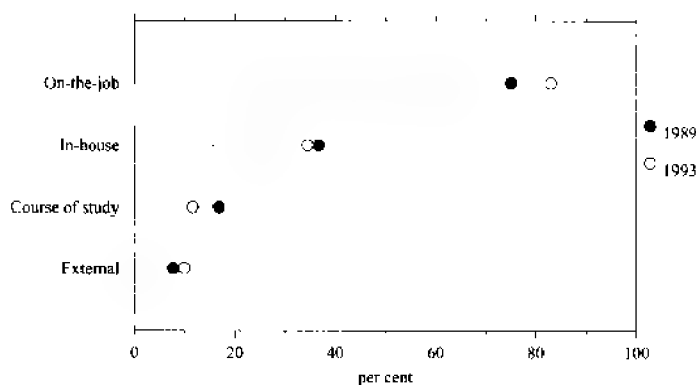
### Training

#### Training experience

A majority (85.9 per cent) of wage and salary earners in the Northern Territory received some form of training during the 12 months to May 1993, compared to 82.1 per cent in 1989.

- About four in five (82.9 per cent) wage and salary earners undertook on-the-job training, up from 75.0 per cent in 1989 (Graph 6.5).

GRAPH 6.5 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS: CATEGORIES OF TRAINING UNDERTAKEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, 1989 AND 1993, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6278 0

- The proportion of wage and salary earners undertaking in-house training courses declined slightly from 36.7 per cent in 1989 to 34.5 per cent in 1993 while those undertaking external training courses increased from 7.8 per cent to 10.0 per cent.
- The proportion of wage and salary earners undertaking a course of study declined from 16.8 per cent in 1989 to 11.6 per cent in 1993.

#### Expenditure

Employers in the Northern Territory spent \$7.8 million on formal training during the three months from July to September 1993. This was 2.9 per cent of gross wages and salaries. Employers spent an average of \$185 per employee, slightly less than the national average of \$192. Territorian employees received an average 4.25 hours of formal training during this period, compared to 5.55 hours nationally.

## Further reading

### ABS publications

*A Directory of Education and Training Statistics* (1136.0)  
*Schools, Australia, Preliminary* (4220.0)  
*Schools, Australia* (4221.0)  
*Education and Training in Australia* (4224.0)  
*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)  
*Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia* (6243.0)  
*Training and Education Experience, Australia* (6278.0)  
*Employer Training Expenditure, Australia* (6353.0)

### Non-ABS publications

Department of Employment, Education and Training, *Annual Report*  
NT Department of Education, *Annual Report*  
NT Department of Education, *Statistical Overview of Northern Territory Schools*  
(annual)  
Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority, *Annual Report*  
Northern Territory University, *Annual Report*  
Northern Territory University, *Statistics Report* (annual)



### **Melon pickers**

The Northern Territory has the second highest labour force participation rate of any State or Territory.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



### **Public sector workers**

More than one-third of employed wage and salary earners in the Territory are employed in the public sector.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*

## The labour force

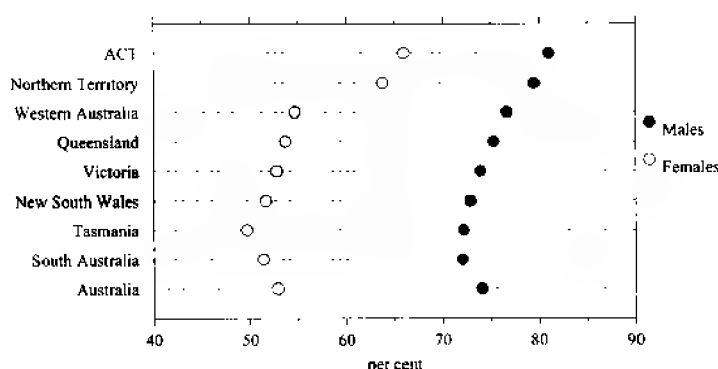
### People in the labour force

The labour force comprises people aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed. In January 1996 the Northern Territory's labour force comprised an estimated 89,400 people of whom 82,900 were employed and 6,400 were unemployed. This was an increase of 600 (0.7 per cent) since January 1995.

The labour force participation rate for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. This rate provides the basis for monitoring changes in the size and composition of the labour force.

In January 1996 the overall participation rate in the Northern Territory was 71.8 per cent, a decline of 1.1 percentage points since January 1995. This was the second highest participation rate of any State or Territory and 8.5 percentage points higher than the national rate of 63.3 per cent.

GRAPH 7.1 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, STATES AND TERRITORIES, JANUARY 1996



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6203.0

In January 1996 the participation rate for males in the Northern Territory was 79.5 per cent, 5.4 percentage points higher than the national rate for males, while the participation rate for females was 63.8 per cent which was 10.9 percentage points above the national rate for females (Graph 7.1).

Trend estimates over the last five years show labour force participation rates at about the same level now as in the early 1990s. The participation rate for both sexes fluctuated quite considerably, increasing markedly during 1994 before declining again during most of 1995.

### People not in the labour force

People aged 15 years and over are described as not being in the labour force if they are neither employed nor unemployed as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This group includes people who are retired, the permanently incapacitated and people who choose not to work. It also includes those people who want to work and are available for work but are not actively looking for work.

In January 1996 there were an estimated 35,100 people in the Northern Territory who were not in the labour force, an increase of 2,100 (6.4 per cent) since January 1995.

## Unemployment

People aged 15 years and over are classified as unemployed if they satisfy the following criteria:

- they are not employed (that is, they have not worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind or worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business during the reference week);
- they are available for work; and
- they are actively looking for work.

### Number of unemployed people

In January 1996 there were 6,400 unemployed people in the Northern Territory, a decrease of 1,700 (21.0 per cent) since January 1995. Of these, 4,100 (64.1 per cent) were male and 2,300 (35.9 per cent) were female.

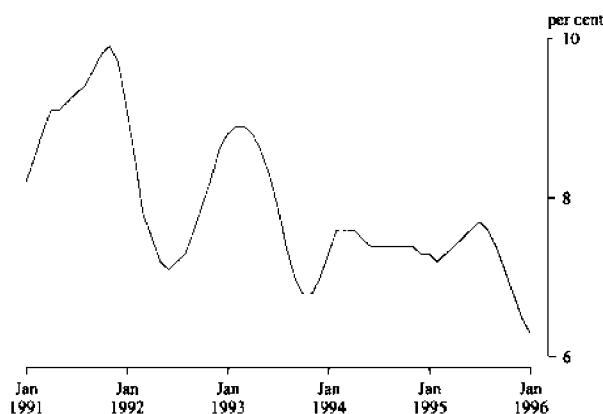
The vast majority (5,100 or 79.7 per cent) of unemployed people were looking for full-time work while the remainder (1,300 or 20.3 per cent) were looking for part-time work.

### Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. In January 1996 the Territory's unemployment rate was 7.2 per cent, the lowest rate of any State or Territory and 2.0 percentage points lower than the national rate of 9.2 per cent.

The unemployment rate for males was 8.2 per cent, down 0.7 percentage points since January 1995, while the unemployment rate for females was 5.9 per cent, down 3.5 percentage points over the same period.

GRAPH 7.2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NORTHERN TERRITORY  
(TREND SERIES)



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6203.0

Trend estimates show the Territory's unemployment rate at January 1996 was the lowest rate for the the last five years (Graph 7.2).

### Regional unemployment rates

The Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs publishes quarterly estimates of regional unemployment rates for the Northern Territory. At December quarter 1995 it estimated that the unemployment rate was highest in East Arnhem (8.8 per cent), Katherine (8.2 per cent) and Central Australia (7.8 per cent) and lowest in Casuarina (6.1 per cent) and Darwin (6.9 per cent).

## Employment

People aged 15 years and over are classified as employed if they worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind or worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business.

### Number of employed people

In January 1996 there were 82,900 employed people in the Northern Territory, an increase of 2,200 (2.7 per cent) since January 1995. Of these, 46,100 (55.6 per cent) were male and 36,800 (44.4 per cent) were female.

### Community Development Employment Projects

About 6,300 of these employed people were employed under the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program. Under the program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voluntarily forego their individual entitlement to unemployment benefits and partake in community development initiatives in return for wages equivalent to their foregone benefit entitlement. The program, which is administered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, provides well over half of the Indigenous employment in the Northern Territory.

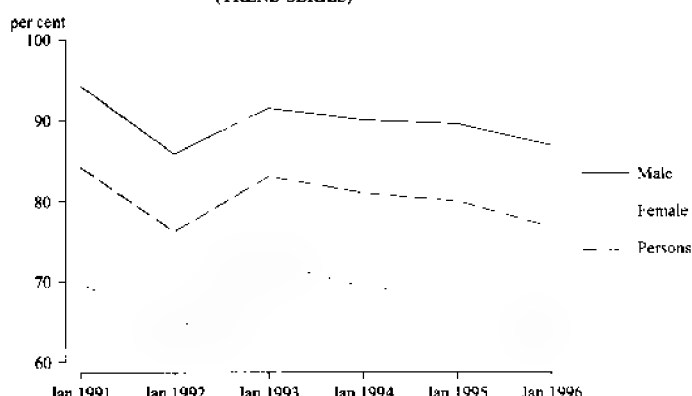
### Defence force personnel

At December 1995 there were about 3,000 permanent defence force personnel based in the Northern Territory. These personnel are not included in the number of employed people reported above or below.

### Full-time and part-time workers

More than three-quarters of all people employed in the Territory in January 1996 (64,000 or 77.2 per cent) were full-time workers, down from 81.0 per cent (65,400) in January 1995. The proportion of males employed full-time was significantly higher than that of females (85.7 per cent compared to 66.6 per cent).

GRAPH 7.3 EMPLOYED PERSONS: PROPORTION OF PERSONS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME, NORTHERN TERRITORY (TREND SERIES)



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6201.0

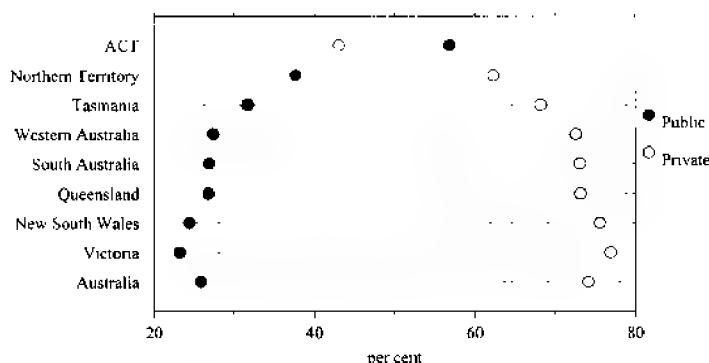
During the five years to January 1996 the proportion of employees working full-time declined overall, with the proportion of females working full-time declining at a slightly faster rate than that of males (Graph 7.3).

### Public and private sector workers

The proportion of wage and salary earners employed in the public sector in the Territory has remained relatively steady during the five years to February 1995.

At February 1995 more than one-third (21,100 or 37.7 per cent) of employed wage and salary earners in the Northern Territory were employed in the public sector. This was the highest proportion for any State or Territory except the Australian Capital Territory (Graph 7.4).

GRAPH 7.4 EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY SECTOR, STATES AND TERRITORIES, FEBRUARY 1995



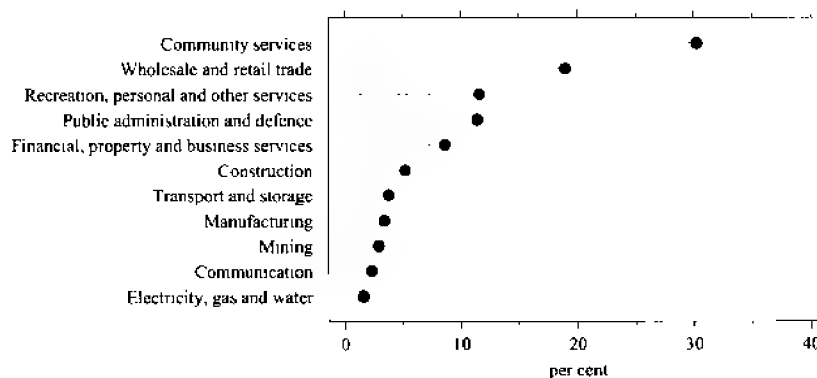
Source: ABS Catalogue No 6248.0

The majority (15,600 or 73.9 per cent) of public sector employees in the Northern Territory at February 1995 were employed in the Northern Territory Government sector with the remainder employed in either the Commonwealth (4,200 or 19.9 per cent) or local government (1,200 or 5.7 per cent) sectors.

## Industry

The largest industry in terms of employment in the Northern Territory at February 1995 was community services with 30.2 per cent (16,900) of all employed wage and salary earners followed by wholesale and retail trade with 19.0 per cent (10,600) (Graph 7.5). More than half (15,300 or 58.4 per cent) of all female wage and salary earners were concentrated in these two industries compared to 41.4 per cent (12,300) of males.

GRAPH 7.5 EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY INDUSTRY, NORTHERN TERRITORY, FEBRUARY 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6248.0

During the five years to February 1995 the largest growth in employment occurred in the recreation, personal and other services industry (up from 6.6 per cent in 1990 to 11.6 per cent in 1995) while the largest decline in employment occurred in the construction industry (down from 10.4 per cent in 1990 to 5.2 per cent in 1995).

## The working environment

### Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings refers to the average gross (before tax) earnings of employees. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees.



At February 1996 the average weekly total earnings in the Northern Territory for all employees was \$576.40. This was the third highest average of any State or Territory and \$13.80 higher than the national average.

Average weekly earnings for males were \$676.70 compared to \$469.40 for females. The female average was 69.4 per cent of the male average but some of this difference is attributable to the fact that there is a larger proportion of females working part-time. A comparison of full-time employees indicates that female earnings were 78.7 per cent of male earnings.

**TABLE 7.1 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Feb 1991	Feb 1996	Change over period
	\$	\$	%
<i>Males</i>			
Full-time adults - ordinary time earnings	606.60	703.90	16.0
Full-time adults - total earnings	654.50	775.40	18.5
All males - total earnings	603.30	676.70	12.2
<i>Females</i>			
Full-time adults - ordinary time earnings	520.60	599.10	15.1
Full-time adults - total earnings	533.20	610.30	14.5
All females - total earnings	446.40	469.40	5.2
<i>Persons</i>			
Full-time adults - ordinary time earnings	573.90	661.30	15.2
Full-time adults - total earnings	608.40	708.40	16.4
All persons - total earnings	535.10	576.40	7.7

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6302.0

During the five years to February 1996 average weekly total earnings for males increased by more than twice the rate of that for females (Table 7.1). Average weekly total earnings for all persons increased by 7.7 per cent over the same period, an average increase of 1.5 per cent per year.

**Superannuation** In November 1995 88.8 per cent (57,159) of full-time workers and 55.5 per cent (9,345) of part-time workers in the Northern Territory aged between 15 and 74 years were covered by a superannuation scheme.

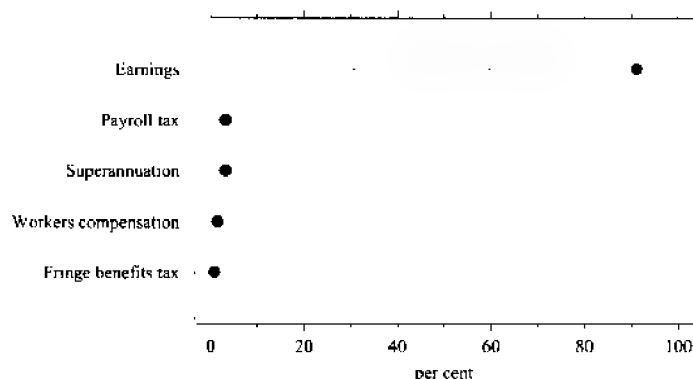
- Coverage was slightly higher for female workers (28,994 or 82.4 per cent) than male workers (37,510 or 81.5 per cent).
- People aged 45 to 54 years (14,653 or 70.5 per cent) were the most likely to have superannuation coverage, followed by those aged 35 to 44 years (18,851 or 65.6 per cent).

## Labour

**Labour costs** Labour costs are costs incurred by employers in the employment of labour. In 1993-94 the total labour cost per employee in the Northern Territory was \$32,551, slightly below the national average of \$32,755.

- Earnings accounted for 91.1 per cent (\$29,656) of labour costs per employee (Graph 7.6). This comprised payments for time worked, leave, leave loading, public holidays, infrequent bonuses, termination payments and fringe benefits.

GRAPH 7.6 LABOUR COSTS PER EMPLOYEE BY TYPE,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1993-94



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6348 0

- The remaining 8.9 per cent of costs incurred were payroll tax (\$1,085 or 3.3 per cent), superannuation (\$1,048 or 3.2 per cent), workers compensation (\$490 or 1.5 per cent) and fringe benefits tax (\$272 or 0.8 per cent).

During the five years to 1993-94, the average labour cost per employee increased by 20.9 per cent (\$5,632). The proportion of labour costs constituted by earnings and superannuation increased over the period while that constituted by fringe benefits tax and workers compensation declined. The proportion constituted by payroll tax was unchanged.

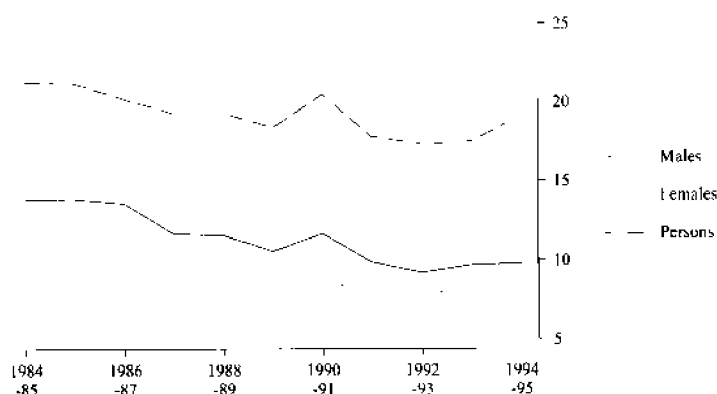
## Trade unions

**Number of trade unions** During the 10 years ending 30 June 1995, the number of separate trade unions operating in the Northern Territory declined by 64.5 per cent, falling from 76 unions at 30 June 1985 to 27 unions at 30 June 1995.

**Membership** Over the same period, the number of male trade union members in the Northern Territory declined from 13,900 to 9,800 (4,100 or 29.5 per cent), while the number of female members increased from 7,400 to 9,200 (1,800 or 24.3 per cent) (Graph 7.7). Overall, trade union membership in the Northern Territory declined by 10.3 per cent (2,200), slightly less than the national average of 12.6 per cent (down 397,900 to 2,756,300).

At 30 June 1995 just over one-quarter (27.0 per cent) of all employees in the Northern Territory were trade union members, down from 38.0 per cent in 1985.

GRAPH 7.7 NUMBER OF TRADE UNION MEMBERS BY SEX,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY ('000)



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6302.0

## Industrial disputes

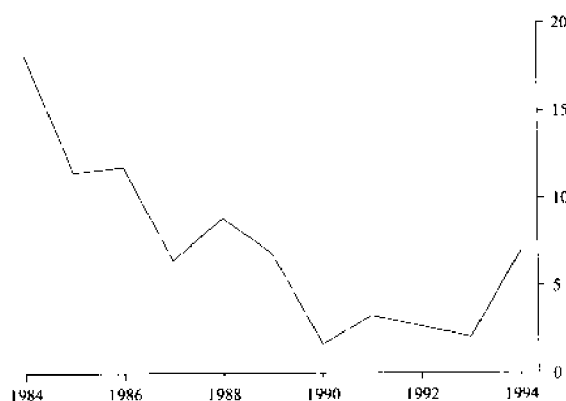
### Number of disputes

Industrial disputes are defined as disputes which involve a stoppage of work of 10 working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. During 1994 there were 15 industrial disputes in the Northern Territory, the third lowest number of disputes since 1984.

### Working days lost

These disputes involved 1,400 employees and resulted in the loss of 7,000 working days during 1994 which was the highest number of days lost since 1988 (Graph 7.8). The mining industry lost the greatest number of days, accounting for nearly three-quarters (5,200 or 74.3 per cent) of all working days lost.

GRAPH 7.8 NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST DUE TO INDUSTRIAL  
DISPUTES, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994 ('000)



Source: ABS Catalogue No 6322.0

Overall, the Northern Territory lost 103 working days per thousand employees due to industrial disputes. This was the highest rate of any State or Territory except Queensland and 27 days higher (35.5 per cent) than the national average.

## Further reading

### ABS publications

*Labour Statistics, Australia* (6101.0)

*Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (6102.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0)  
*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)  
*Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0)  
*Multiple Jobholding, Australia* (6216.0)  
*Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0)  
*Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia* (6224.0)  
*Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia* (6238.0)  
*Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment, Australia* (6246.0)  
*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)  
*Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia* (6250.0)  
*Occasional Paper: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Australian Labour Market 1986 and 1991* (6253.0)  
*Career Experience, Australia* (6254.0)  
*Labour Force Projections, Australia* (6260.0)  
*Underemployed Workers, Australia* (6265.0)  
*Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia* (6267.0)  
*Persons Employed at Home, Australia* (6275.0)  
*Information Paper: Measuring Employment and Unemployment* (6279.0)  
*Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary* (6301.0)  
*Average Weekly Earnings. States and Australia* (6302.0)  
*Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia* (6306.0)  
*Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia* (6312.0)  
*Superannuation, Australia* (6319.0)  
*Industrial Disputes, Australia (monthly)* (6321.0)  
*Industrial Disputes, Australia (annual)* (6322.0)  
*Trade Union Statistics, Australia* (6323.0)  
*Trade Union Statistics, Australia* (6323.0)  
*Working Arrangements, Australia* (6342.0)  
*Labour Costs, Australia* (6348.0)  
*Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0)

### **Non-ABS publications**

Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, *Small Area Labour Markets - Australia* (quarterly)





### **Young fundraising volunteers**

Volunteers aged 15 years and over in the Northern Territory contributed 5.2 million hours of voluntary work in the 12 months to June 1995.

*Photo: Australian Red Cross Northern Territory Division*



### **Meals on Wheels**

Australian Red Cross delivers 30,000 meals a year to the sick and elderly in the Territory.

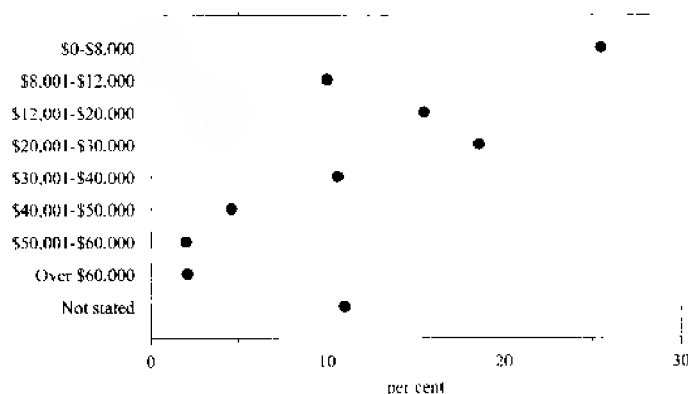
*Photo: Australian Red Cross Northern Territory Division*

## Income

### Annual individual income

The 1991 Census indicated that the median annual individual income range for people aged 15 years and over in the Northern Territory was \$12,001-\$20,000. The national median was the same as that recorded for the Territory.

GRAPH 8.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL INCOME, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991



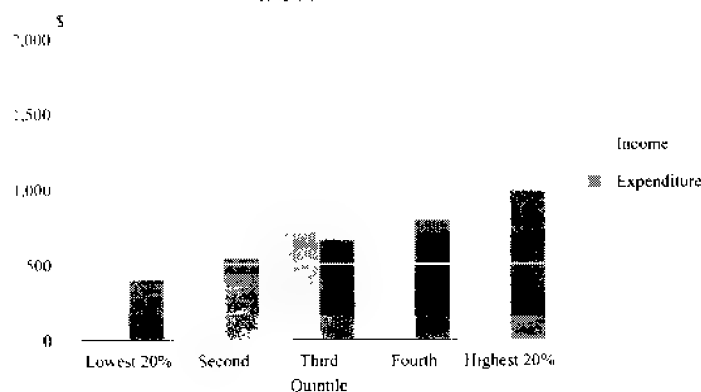
Source: ABS Catalogue No 2722.7

About one-quarter of Territorians (33,063) had an annual individual income of \$0-\$8,000 (Graph 8.1). More than half of these (18,849 or 57.0 per cent) were female. In contrast, the majority of people with an annual individual income of more than \$40,000 were male (9,272 or 81.8 per cent).

### Expenditure

In 1993-94, Darwin households in the lowest income quintile (that is, the lowest 20 per cent of households when ranked according to household income) spent \$400.13 a week on commodities and services, almost twice as much as their average weekly household income (\$227.29) (Graph 8.2). In contrast, Darwin households in the highest income quintile spent \$1,023.35 a week on commodities and services, considerably less than their average weekly household income of \$1,664.69.

GRAPH 8.2 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILE GROUP, DARWIN, 1993-94



Note: Quintile groups are 20% groupings of the population when households are ranked according to each household's total gross weekly income.

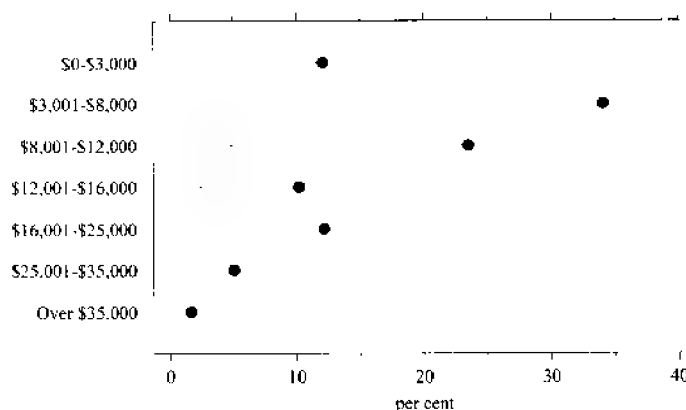
Source: ABS Catalogue No 6533.0

## Income of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

### Annual individual income

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey conducted in 1994 indicated that the median annual individual income range for Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in the Northern Territory was \$8,001-\$12,000 (Graph 8.3).

GRAPH 8.3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER:  
ANNUAL PERSONAL INCOME, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994



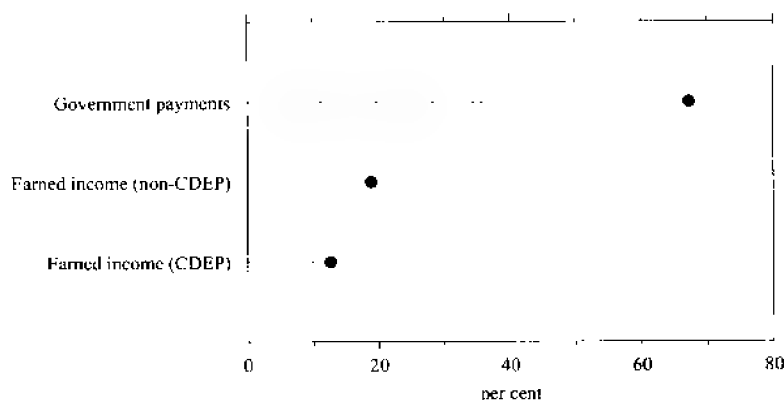
Source: ABS Catalogue No 4196.0

The median income range was higher for females (\$8,001-\$12,000) than for males (\$3,001-\$8,000). Only about 6.8 per cent (1,900) of Indigenous people in the Territory had an income of \$25,001 or more, compared to 11.3 per cent nationally.

### Sources of income

The main source of income for the estimated 25,500 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in the Northern Territory who did receive an income was government payments (17,100 or 67.3 per cent), followed by income earned from sources other than Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) (4,800 or 18.9 per cent) and earned income from CDEP (3,200 or 12.6 per cent) (Graph 8.4). An estimated 2,900 Indigenous people had no income.

GRAPH 8.4 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER AND  
RECEIVING AN INCOME: MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994



Source: ABS Catalogue No 4196.0



## Bankruptcies

In 1994-95 there were 59 new bankruptcies in the Northern Territory. This was an increase of four bankruptcies compared to 1993-94 but was 40 lower than the peak year of 1991-92.

**Types of bankruptcies** Of these new bankruptcies, 19 were business bankruptcies and 36 were non-business bankruptcies. A further four bankruptcies could not be classified.

**Major causes** In 1994-95 the major causes of business bankruptcies in the Northern Territory were economic conditions affecting the industry and lack of business ability, acumen, training or experience. The major causes of non-business bankruptcies were excessive use of credit facilities and unemployment.

## Income support

Income support is provided for individuals or families through the payment of pensions, benefits and allowances, generally by the Commonwealth Government.

**Department of Social Security** The Department of Social Security provides the following income security for the retired, people with disabilities and the sick, the unemployed, families with children and people in special circumstances.

- The retired are assisted by the Age Pension. Wife (Age) Pension is being phased out.
- People with disabilities and the sick are supported by the Disability Support Pension, Rehabilitation Allowance, Sickness Allowance and Mobility Allowance. Their spouses are supported by Partner Allowance or Parenting Allowance. Wife (Disability Support) Pension is being phased out.
- People who have been unemployed for 12 months or less are supported by the Job Search Allowance. Unemployed people aged less than 18 years receive the Youth Training Allowance rather than Job Search Allowance and are encouraged to participate in training opportunities.

People who have been unemployed for more than 12 months and are actively seeking employment and improving their employment opportunities by undertaking training courses or rehabilitation are supported by the Newstart Allowance.

People aged at least 60 years but under the Age Pension age who have been unemployed for more than 12 months are eligible for the Mature Age Allowance.

- Families with children are assisted by Family Payment, Parenting Allowance, Child Disability Allowance and the Double Orphan Pension. Sole parents with dependent children have access to the Sole Parent Pension.

The Jobs, Education and Training Scheme assists sole parents in gaining re-entry to the workforce. The Child Support Scheme is designed to improve financial support for children of separated parents by obtaining contributions to the support of their children from non-custodial parents in accordance with their capacity to pay.

## Income and welfare

Older women are supported by the Widow Class 'B' Pension (which is being phased out) while widowed people are supported by the Widowed Allowance and the Bereavement Allowance (a short term payment).

- People in special circumstances are supported by the Special Benefit.

In addition to these payments, other supplementary payments may be included in social security benefits depending on the person's circumstances. These payments include: guardian allowance; rent assistance; remote area allowance; pharmaceutical allowance; and telephone rental and postal concessions.

**TABLE 8.1      SELECTED SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONS AND BENEFITS,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY, DECEMBER 1995**

Type of payment	Number of payments being paid
<i>The retired</i>	
Age Pension	4,733
Wife (Age)/Carers Pension (a)	964
<i>People with disabilities and the sick</i>	
Disability Support Pension	3,796
Sickness Allowance	504
<i>The unemployed</i>	
Youth Training Allowance	453
Job Search Allowance	5,729
Newstart Allowance	5,426
Partner Allowance	293
Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance	211
<i>Families with children</i>	
Family Payment	21,532
Sole Parent Pension	4,590
<i>Provision for special circumstances</i>	
Special Benefit	198
Widow Class 'B' Pension	311

(a) Includes Wife (Disability Support) Pension

Source: Department of Social Security

### Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Repatriation Commission provides veterans and their dependents with a range of benefits, including service and disability pensions, to compensate for the effects of war or defence service. The Department of Veterans' Affairs provides administrative support to the Commission in providing these benefits.

At 4 January 1996 there were 1,271 service pensions payable to veterans or veterans' wives and widows in the Northern Territory (Table 8.2). There were also 986 disability pensions payable to incapacitated veterans or their dependents.

**TABLE 8.2 SERVICE PENSIONS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 4 JANUARY 1996**

	Pensions to veterans	Pensions to veterans' wives and widows	Total pensions
	No.	No.	No.
World War I	—	2	2
World War II	271	244	515
Korea, Malaya & Far East Strategic Reserve	50	28	78
Special Overseas Service	159	43	202
Peacetime & Peacekeeping Forces	323	22	345
British Commonwealth Forces	59	34	93
Allied Forces	7	6	13
Australian Mariners	6	5	11
British Commonwealth & Allied Mariners	8	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1,271</b>

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs

## Community services

A wide variety of services for special groups in the community or for the community as a whole are provided by the Northern Territory and local governments, welfare agencies and other organisations.

### Child care

Territory Health Services (previously known as the NT Department of Health and Community Services) conjointly with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services assists in the provision of a range of child care services. Much of this assistance is provided through operational funding of child day care centres and related children's services.

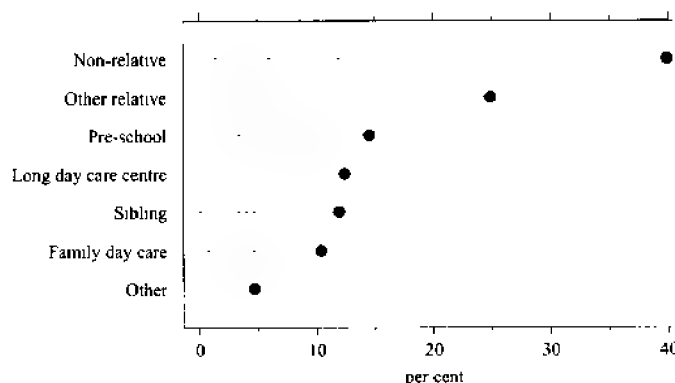
In June 1993, about half (19,300 or 50.7 per cent) of Territory children under 12 years of age were involved in some type of formal or informal child care arrangement. This was slightly higher than the national average of 48.8 per cent.

Informal child care, which includes care by siblings, other relatives or non-relatives, was the most common type of child care arrangement used by Territory children (14,500 or 38.1 per cent of all children under 12 years of age). Unlike the other States and Territories, the most commonly used type of informal care in the Northern Territory was care by a non-relative (7,700 or 53.1 per cent) followed by care by other relatives (4,800 or 33.1 per cent). Nationally, the situation was reversed - that is, care by other relatives was much more common than care by a non-relative (60.6 per cent compared to 33.4 per cent).

Formal child care is regulated and occurs away from the child's home. It includes pre-school, before and after school care programs, long day care centres, family day care and occasional care. In June 1993 a total of 7,500 children in the Territory used

formal care (19.7 per cent of all children under 12 years of age). The most commonly used type of formal care was pre-school (2,800 or 37.3 per cent) followed by long day care centre (2,400 or 32.0 per cent) and family day care (2,000 or 26.7 per cent).

**GRAPH 8.5 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE USING CHILD CARE:  
TYPE OF CHILD CARE USED, STATES AND TERRITORIES,  
JUNE 1993**

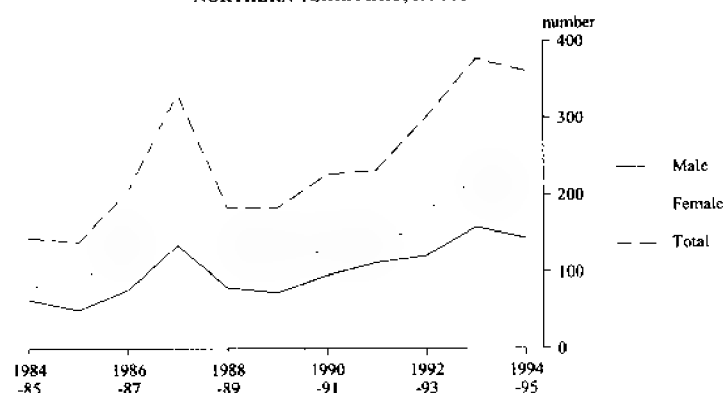


Note: Children may use more than one type of care.  
Source: ABS Catalogue No 4402.0

### Child protection

The number of cases of child maltreatment substantiated by Territory Health Services declined by 4.2 per cent from 377 in 1993-94 to 361 in 1994-95. Substantiated cases of maltreatment were more likely to involve female children (217 or 60.1 per cent) than male children (144 or 39.9 per cent) (Graph 8.6).

**GRAPH 8.6 SUBSTANTIATED CASES OF MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95**



Source: NT Department of Health and Community Services Annual Report 1994-95

### Services for the aged and disabled

Territory Health Services provides a wide range of services to meet the health and community service needs of the frail aged and people with disabilities to enable them to maintain maximum independence and quality of life in their own communities. Two of these services are described below.

- The Home and Community Care Program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments. The Program funds organisations and community groups which provide basic maintenance and support services for the frail aged and younger people with disabilities to enable them to remain living at home. It also provides support for the carers of these people.

In 1994-95 more than \$3.2 million was expended on HACC services in the Northern Territory including home help, personal care, home maintenance, food services, respite care, transport, education, information and service coordination.

- The Pensioner Concession Scheme provides a wide range of concessions for pensioners, people of retirement age, war widows and widowers and a number of other categories of eligible people. The Scheme aims to encourage older residents to remain in the Northern Territory during their retirement and to provide assistance with the cost of living to pensioners of all ages.

Concessions are provided on a wide range of government services including electricity, council, sewerage and water rates, garbage charges, motor vehicle registration and driver's licence fees, bus services, interstate travel and the cost of spectacles. During 1994-95 about 13,000 cardholders received concessions worth \$4.1 million. Electricity concessions accounted for nearly half of the budget.

Services for the frail aged and people with disabilities provided through non-government organisations include accommodation support, attendant care, respite care, early intervention, independent living training, home help, advocacy and nursing home and hostel care.

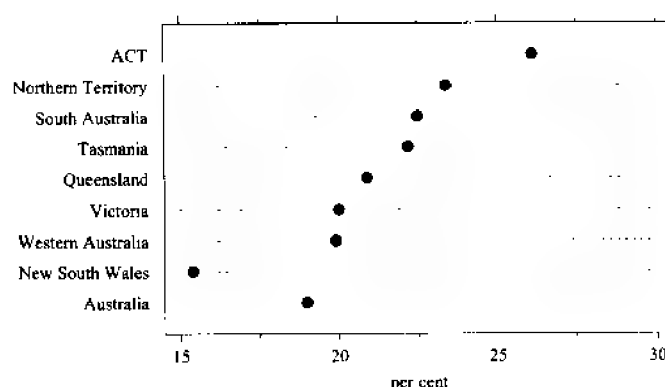
## Voluntary work

Voluntary work is an important contribution that meets needs within the community at the same time as it develops and reinforces social networks and cohesion.

### Number of volunteers

In the 12 months to June 1995 28,500 people (23.4 per cent of the population aged 15 years and over) in the Northern Territory provided some form of voluntary work through an organisation or group. This was the second highest volunteer rate for any State or Territory and considerably higher than the national rate of 19.0 per cent (Graph 8.7). The volunteer rate was higher for females than males (24.6 per cent compared to 22.3 per cent).

GRAPH 8.7 VOLUNTEER RATES FOR STATES AND TERRITORIES IN THE 12 MONTHS TO JUNE 1995



Note: The volunteer rate is the number of volunteers expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.  
Source: ABS Catalogue No 4441 0

### Hours worked

Volunteers in the Northern Territory contributed 5.2 million hours of voluntary work in the 12 months to June 1995. This represented an average of 182.5 hours per volunteer and was 18.1 hours higher than the national average of 164.4 hours.

### Further reading

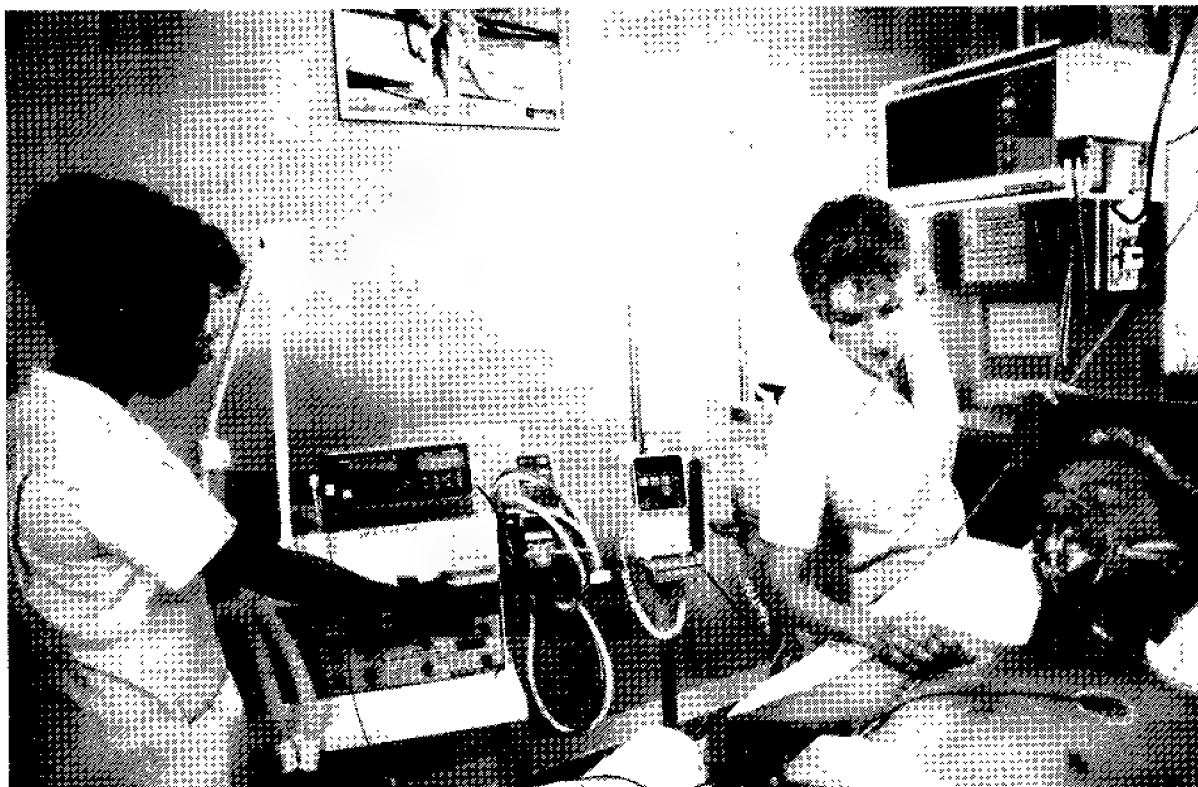
#### ABS publications

*1991 Census - Community Profiles, Australia* (2722.0)  
*1991 Census - Community Profiles, Northern Territory* (2722.7)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Detailed Findings* (4190.0)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Regional Statistics* (4196.0)  
*Child Care, Australia* (4402.0)  
*Voluntary Work, Australia* (4441.0)  
*Information Paper: Household Expenditure Survey, Australia* (6527.0)  
*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results* (6530.0)  
*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics* (6530.0)  
*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: States and Territories* (6533.0)  
*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items* (6535.0)  
*Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: the Effects of Government Benefits and Taxes on Household Income* (6537.0)

#### Non-ABS publications

Department of Social Security, *Annual Report*  
Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Annual Report*  
NT Department of Health and Community Services, *Annual Report*

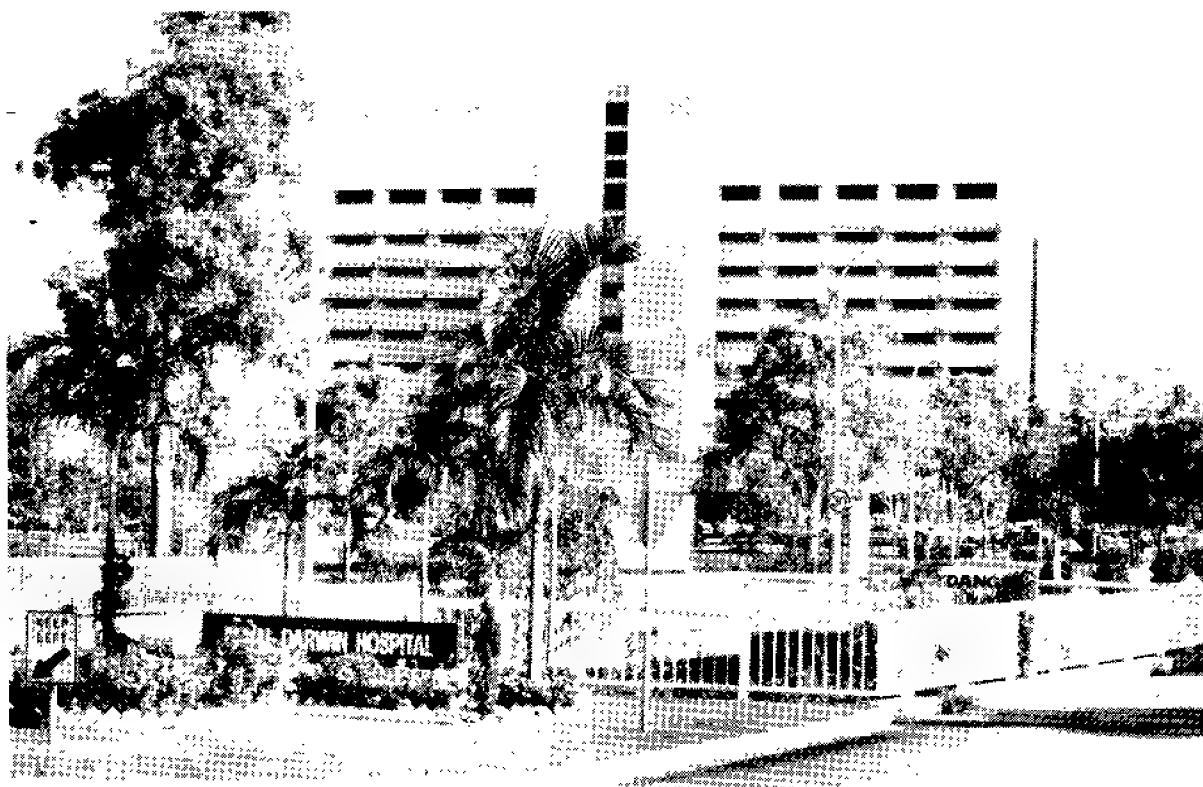




### **Patient care**

The average length of stay in the Territory's five public hospitals is declining.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



### **Royal Darwin Hospital**

There were 32,730 admissions to the Territory's public hospitals during 1994-95.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



## National Health Survey

During 1989-90 the Australian Bureau of Statistics undertook a National Health Survey. The survey focused on the health status of the population, the use of health facilities and services and lifestyle factors affecting health. (Results from the 1995 National Health Survey will be available from late 1996.)

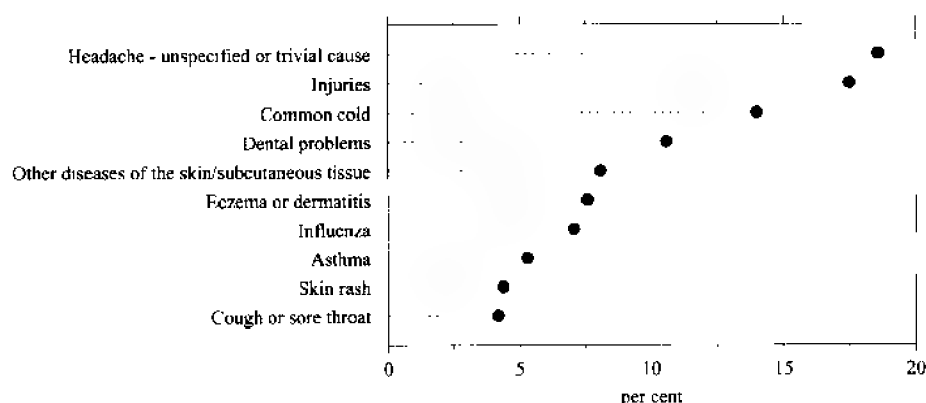
### Health status

A majority (86,800 or 82.4 per cent) of Territorians aged 18 years and over reported that their health status was good or excellent, slightly higher than the national average of 79.2 per cent. Females felt healthier than males with 86.2 per cent (44,800) of females reporting good or excellent health compared to 78.9 per cent (42,000) of males.

### Recent conditions

Despite these favourable health assessments, 70.3 per cent (110,500) of people in the Northern Territory reported that they had experienced an illness, injury or disability during the two weeks prior to interview, slightly less than the national average of 72.9 per cent. The most frequently reported single condition was headache (due to unspecified or trivial cause), affecting 18.6 per cent (20,500) of Territorians who experienced a recent illness condition during the two weeks prior to interview (Graph 9.1). Other frequently reported recent illness conditions included injuries (19,300 or 17.5 per cent), the common cold (15,500 or 14.0 per cent) and dental problems (11,700 or 10.6 per cent).

GRAPH 9.1 PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCED RECENT ILLNESS BY 10 MOST COMMON TYPES OF CONDITION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1989-90



Source ABS Catalogue No. 4364.7

### Long-term conditions

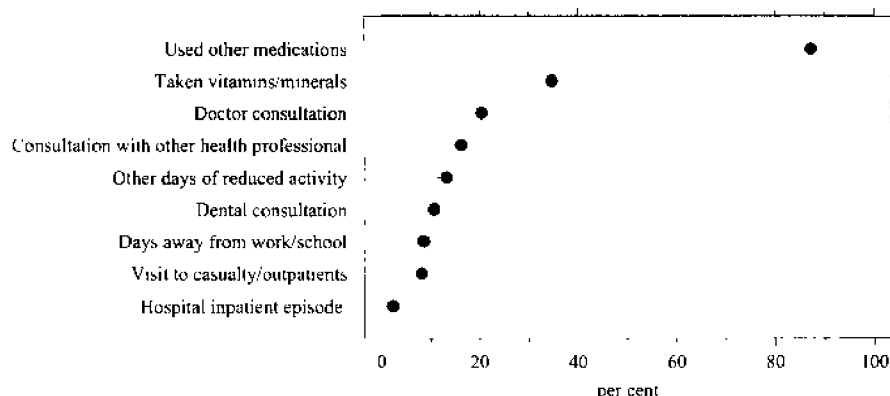
A smaller group of Territorians (70,900 or 45.1 per cent) reported that they had experienced long term conditions - that is, conditions which have lasted, or which are expected to last, for at least six months. This was significantly lower than the national average of 66.2 per cent. Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs were the most frequently reported long-term conditions, affecting 50.1 per cent (35,500) of the population experiencing long-term conditions.

### Health related action

Almost three-quarters of people in the Northern Territory (113,800 or 72.4 per cent) reported taking at least one health-related action during the two weeks prior to interview, slightly less than the national average of 75.5 per cent.

The most common health-related actions were using medications (99,400 or 87.3 per cent), taking vitamins and minerals (39,600 or 34.8 per cent) and consulting a doctor (23,300 or 20.5 per cent) (Graph 9.2).

**GRAPH 9.2 PERSONS WHO TOOK A HEALTH-RELATED ACTION BY TYPE OF ACTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1989-90**



Source: ABS Catalogue No 4364.7

### Health risk factors

The National Health Survey also asked people about aspects of their lifestyle and other characteristics which may affect their health, such as alcohol consumption, relative weight and exercise.

- People who consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview were grouped by health risk level according to the quantity of alcohol they consumed. The Survey showed that one-fifth of male drinkers in the Northern Territory (8,600 or 20.9 per cent) were grouped as high risk compared to 3.4 per cent of female drinkers (1,000).
- Almost one-third of Territorians (33,000 or 31.4 per cent) reported that they did no exercise for recreation, sport or fitness in the two weeks prior to interview, compared to 35.8 per cent nationally.
- Less than half of Territorians (45,000 or 42.8 per cent) had an acceptable relative weight while just over one-third (36,400 or 34.6 per cent) were either overweight or obese. Males were more likely than females to be overweight or obese (22,000 or 41.4 per cent compared to 14,400 or 27.7 per cent for females) while females were more likely than males to be underweight (14,500 or 27.9 per cent compared to 5,000 or 9.5 per cent for males).

A discussion of a further two health behaviours and related risk factors - food consumption and smoking - from the 1994 Survey of Health Behaviours and Risk Factors are featured in this chapter as special articles.

## Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1994, collected information on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Because of some differences in procedures and definitions, care must be taken when comparing the results of this survey with those from the 1989-90 National Health Survey.

### Recent conditions

More than one-third (17,500 or 38.0 per cent) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory reported that they had experienced an illness, injury or

## Food consumption

In 1993 the National Health and Medical Research Council, as part of a program for healthy eating, made recommendations on the amounts of cereal products, vegetables and fruit to be eaten on a daily basis. The Council's recommended daily level of consumption for adults is:

- two serves of fruit;
- five serves of vegetables; and
- seven serves of cereals.

In October 1994 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey of people aged 18 years and over in the Northern Territory to gather data on people's patterns of food consumption and to determine the level of compliance with the national dietary guidelines. Food consumption information collected in the survey related to each person's consumption during the previous day. The main findings of the survey are summarised below. These findings refer to Darwin and Palmerston only.

- About half (29,216 or 49.6 per cent) of the people in Darwin and Palmerston ate two or more pieces of fruit during the previous day. However, 29.0 per cent (17,084) did not eat any fruit during the previous day.

Young people were less likely to eat the recommended amount of fruit than older people. There was also a negative association between the number of times eating out and the number of serves of fruit consumed.

- Only 13.2 per cent of people (7,779) ate five or more serves of vegetables during the previous day. Nearly half (27,925 or 47.4 per cent) ate less than three serves of vegetables. A higher proportion of unemployed people did not consume any vegetables at all when compared to those who were employed or not in the labour force.
- About one-fifth (11,358 or 19.3 per cent) of people ate the recommended amount of cereals during the previous day. Males (7,643 or 25.3 per cent) were more likely than females (3,715 or 12.9 per cent) to have eaten the recommended amount of cereals. Bread was the most frequently eaten cereal product (48,650 or 82.5 per cent) with breakfast cereals (21,812 or 37.0 per cent) and rice (16,958 or 28.8 per cent) the next most popular cereals.
- On the day prior to the survey 41.4 per cent (24,409) of people in Darwin had eaten out or had take-away. Only 7.8 per cent (4,620) of people had eaten out more than twice. Young people and those who were employed were more likely to eat out or purchase take-away than older people or those unemployed or not in the labour force.
- Overall, only 2.9 per cent of people (1,724) ate the recommended number of serves of cereals and vegetables and fruit.

Information from the ABS survey is being used by Territory Health Services to develop strategies to improve the promotion of dietary guidelines and the recommended number of serves.

*This special article was prepared by Territory Health Services.*

disability during the two weeks prior to interview, slightly less than the national average of 41.0 per cent. The most frequently reported single condition was diseases of the respiratory system, affecting 42.3 per cent (7,400) of Indigenous people who experienced a recent illness during the two weeks prior to interview.

### Long-term conditions

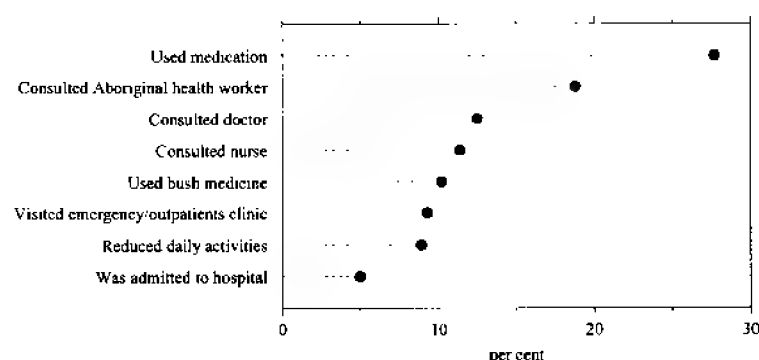
A smaller group (12,000 or 26.2 per cent) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory reported one or more long term illness conditions compared to 34.4 per cent nationally. Asthma was the most frequently reported long-term condition, affecting 7.0 per cent (3,200) of the population.

### Health related action

During the two weeks prior to interview, about 43.0 per cent (19,800) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory took at least one health-related action, slightly less than the national average of 44.2 per cent.

The most common health-related actions were using medications (12,800 or 27.7 per cent), consulting an Aboriginal health worker (8,600 or 18.8 per cent) and consulting a doctor (5,800 or 12.5 per cent) (Graph 9.3). One in ten people (4,700 or 10.2 per cent) used bush medicine.

GRAPH 9.3 INDIGENOUS PERSONS WHO TOOK A HEALTH-RELATED ACTION BY TYPE OF ACTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 4196.0

### Health risk factors

The survey also asked Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 13 years and over in the Northern Territory about their alcohol consumption, smoking habits and relative weight.

- Almost half (14,300 or 46.4 per cent) of Indigenous people aged 13 years and over in the Northern Territory never drank alcohol compared to just over one-quarter (26.5 per cent) nationally.  
  
Of the 16,500 people (53.3 per cent) who drank alcohol in the Territory, more than half (9,000 or 54.8 per cent) had drunk alcohol during the week prior to interview, slightly less than the national average of 55.3 per cent.
- Less than half (14,500 or 47.0 per cent) of Indigenous people aged 13 years in the Northern Territory reported that they smoked cigarettes.
- About one-fifth (4,900 or 19.3 per cent) of Indigenous people had an acceptable relative weight while about one-quarter (6,900 or 26.9 per cent) were either overweight or obese. A further 2,300 people (9.0 per cent) were underweight.

For a discussion of the causes of death for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Northern Territory, please refer to the section on deaths in Chapter 5.

## Smoking behaviour and attitudes

In October 1994 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted a Survey of Health Behaviours and Risk Factors. This survey of people aged 18 years and over in the Northern Territory investigated people's smoking behaviour and their attitudes to smoking in enclosed public places. The Bureau had conducted similar surveys on smoking in 1986 and 1990.

The main findings of the 1994 survey are summarised below. These findings refer to Darwin and Palmerston only.

- Just over one-third (21,029 or 35.7 per cent) of people in Darwin and Palmerston identified themselves as current smokers. About 40 per cent of all males (12,198) and 30.7 per cent of all females (8,831) were current smokers.

One-fifth (12,158 or 20.6 per cent) of people were ex-smokers and 43.7 per cent (25,761) had never smoked regularly.

- A higher proportion of males aged 18-24 smoked (2,610 or 51.9 per cent) than males in other age groups. In contrast, there appeared to be a higher proportion of women aged 35 years and over who smoked.
- Smokers in 1994 were smoking cigarettes which had lower average tar and nicotine contents than cigarettes smoked in 1986 and 1990.
- Of all current smokers, 32.4 per cent of men (3,950) and 38.5 per cent of women (3,400) had attempted to quit smoking. Of all ex-smokers, the majority (9,236 or 76.0 per cent) had not smoked for two years or more.
- Almost two-thirds of people (38,224 or 64.8 per cent) believed there is a medium to high level of health risk associated with regular passive smoking while 14.9 per cent (8,805) of people did not know.
- Of all current smokers, almost one-third (6,573 or 31.3 per cent) supported totally smoke-free enclosed public places and almost one-third (6,484 or 30.8 per cent) supported partially smoke-free public places. More than three-quarters of all people (45,013 or 76.4 per cent) felt that enclosed public places should be totally or partially smoke-free.

Information from the ABS survey is being used by Territory Health Services to improve the effectiveness of programs which assist people to stop smoking or help them avoid taking up the habit. The survey also provides information which can be used to evaluate the performance of tobacco policies.

*This special article was prepared by Territory Health Services.*

## Notifiable diseases

During the five years to 1993-94, new notifications of selected notifiable diseases in the Northern Territory increased by more than one-third (874 or 41.2 per cent) to 2,995. There were substantial increases in new notifications of pertussis (whooping cough) and Ross River fever (Table 9.1). The incidence of tuberculosis halved

between 1989-90 and 1990-91 and has remained steady since then with an average of 31 new notifications per year.

**TABLE 9.1 NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF SELECTED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1988-89	1993-94	Change over period
	No.	No.	%
Gonorrhoea	584	743	27.2
Hepatitis C	n.a.	301	..
Malaria	31	40	29.0
Pertussis	9	140	1,455.6
Ross River fever	61	313	413.1
Tuberculosis	61	31	-49.2
Other	1,375	1,427	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>41.2</b>

Source: NT Department of Health and Community Services Annual Reports 1992-93 and 1994-95

### Preventative actions

#### Breast cancer screening

Regular breast cancer screening allows early detection of the disease. There are three methods of breast cancer screening: breast self-examination; physical examination of the breasts by a trained health professional; and mammography.

In the 1989-90 National Health Survey, 58.4 per cent (26,200) of women aged 18 to 64 years in the Northern Territory reported that they regularly examine their own breasts, compared to 62.8 per cent nationally. A similar proportion (27,400 or 61.1 per cent) reported having had a breast examination by a doctor or nurse, considerably less than the national average of 70.9 per cent. Only 7.9 per cent (3,500) of women had had a mammogram and, of these, about three-quarters (2,600) had been screened within the three years prior to interview.

The first NT Breast Screening and Assessment Service commenced operation in Darwin in November 1994. Plans are now underway for an Alice Springs service. Between November 1994 and June 1995, the new service screened 1,500 women.

#### Cervical cancer screening

As with breast cancer, early detection of cervical cancer improves the chance of recovery. The national policy for cervical cancer screening recommends that routine screening with Pap smears be carried out every two years for women who have no symptoms or history suggestive of cervical pathology.

In the 1989-90 National Health Survey, 90.7 per cent (40,600) of women aged 18 to 64 years in the Northern Territory reported having had a Pap smear test, slightly higher than the national average of 85.5 per cent. Of those women who had had a test, more than half (22,200) had been tested less than a year prior to interview.

As part of its efforts to encourage women to have regular Pap smears, Territory Health Services established the NT Pap Smear Register in early 1996. The Register gives women the option of having their Pap smear results recorded each time they have one. Those women who elect to have their results recorded on the Register will be sent reminders if they are overdue for their next Pap smear and a reminder will also be sent to their doctor or clinic.

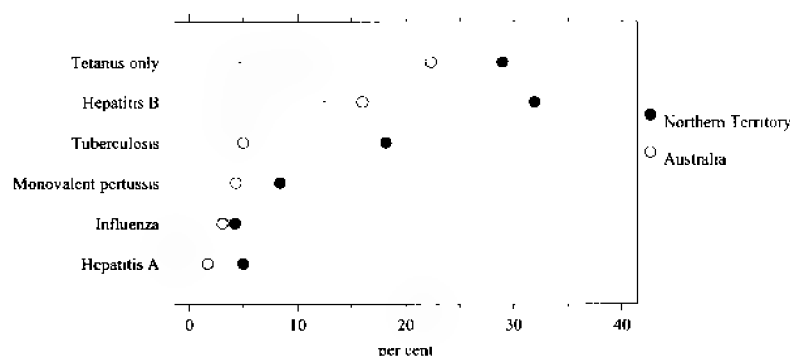
### Immunisation of children

In 1994 the National Health and Medical Research Council recommended near universal coverage of children at school-entry age against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella and Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b). The vaccination schedule differs from the earlier 1991 schedule in the addition of Hib and some other changes.

A survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in April 1995 showed that just over one-third (6,059 or 36.5 per cent) of children aged 3 months to 6 years in predominantly urban areas in the Northern Territory were fully immunised according to the current vaccination schedule. While this was considerably lower than the national target set by the Council, it was higher than the national average of 33.1 per cent. Only Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had higher proportions of children who were fully immunised at 41.5 per cent and 47.5 per cent respectively.

A greater proportion of Territory children in urban areas aged 0 to 14 years had also received other types of vaccinations (that is, those vaccinations not included in the current vaccination schedule) than children in any other State or Territory. This was particularly evident for tuberculosis (almost four times the national average) and Hepatitis B (almost double the national average) (Graph 9.4).

GRAPH 9.4 CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 14 YEARS BY TYPE OF OTHER VACCINATION, APRIL 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 4352.0

## Hospitalisation

### Public and private hospitals

Territory Health Services (previously known as the NT Department of Health and Community Services) administers five public hospitals in the Northern Territory located in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Gove and Tennant Creek. There is also one private hospital, Darwin Private Hospital, which commenced operation in 1988.

The number of authorised beds in Northern Territory public hospitals declined by 2.8 per cent (17) over the five years to 1994-95. Admissions for the year increased by 9.4 per cent (2,823) while the average length of stay declined from 6.1 days in 1989-90 to 5.3 days in 1994-95 (Table 9.2). Alice Springs Hospital had the highest average length of stay in 1994-95 (5.9 days) while Tennant Creek Hospital had the lowest (3.1 days).

**TABLE 9.2 SELECTED ACTIVITY STATISTICS FOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1989-90	1994-95	Change over period
	No.	No.	%
Authorised beds at end of year	601	584	-2.8
Average daily occupied beds	497	489	-1.6
Admissions for the year	29,907	32,730	9.4
Average length of stay (days)	6.1	5.3	-13.1
Major operations	3,406	4,245	24.6
Minor operations	8,117	7,386	-9.0
Dental operations	401	146	-63.6
Outpatient consultations and treatments	189,600	202,683	6.9
Diagnostic imaging	58,191	60,731	4.4

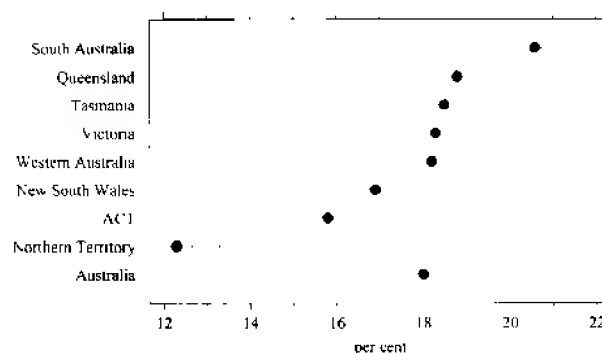
Source: NT Department of Health and Community Services Annual Reports

## Disability

In 1993 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the Disability, Ageing and Carers survey. The following definitions of disability and handicap were used in the survey:

- a person was identified as having a disability if he or she had one or more selected limitations, restrictions or impairments which had lasted, or was likely to last, for six months or more; and
- a handicap results from a disability which limits a person's ability to perform one or more of the tasks of self-care, mobility, verbal communication, schooling or employment.

The Survey indicated that 12.3 per cent of people in the Northern Territory (20,700) had a disability. This was the lowest rate of any State or Territory and was significantly lower than the national average of 18.0 per cent (Graph 9.5). The Territory's younger age profile contributes to this result.

**GRAPH 9.5 PERSONS WHO HAD A DISABILITY BY STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1993**

Source: ABS Catalogue No 4430.0



Almost three-quarters of those people with a disability (15,400 or 74.4 per cent) were classified as having a handicap, slightly lower than the national average of 78.7 per cent).

- Of those people in the Northern Territory with a handicap, about 26.6 per cent (4,100) had a profound or severe handicap, 13.6 per cent (2,100) had a moderate handicap and 44.4 per cent (6,800) had a mild handicap.
- The most frequently reported area of handicap was mobility (11,600 or 75.3 per cent) followed by employment limitations (9,300 or 60.4 per cent).

## Workers compensation

### Number of claims

Under the Work Health Act 1986, workers in the Northern Territory are entitled to compensation for injuries or illnesses contracted during the course of their employment. In 1993-94 the Work Health Authority received 3,718 claims for workers compensation. This was 3.4 per cent (130) less than the previous year. The most common injury was sprains and strains, accounting for more than one-third (1,294 or 34.8 per cent) of employment injuries in 1993-94, followed by lacerations (600 or 16.1 per cent) and diseases (540 or 14.5 per cent).

### Claims by industry

The employment injury incidence rate for 1993-94 was 68.85 per 1,000 workers, compared to 69.08 per 1,000 workers in 1992-93 (Table 9.3). The manufacturing industry continued to have the highest incidence rate with 181.6 claims for each 1,000 wage and salary earners in that industry in 1993-94, up from 167.4 in 1992-93. The incidence rate was also high in the construction industry (125.6) and the transport and storage industry (114.0).

**TABLE 9.3 WORKERS COMPENSATION INCIDENCE RATES BY INDUSTRY, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Industry	Incidence rate (a)		Change over period
	1992-93	1993-94	
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	..
Communication	1.0	—	-1.0
Community services	55.2	50.9	-4.3
Construction	66.8	125.6	58.8
Electricity, gas and water	97.0	106.7	9.7
Finance, property and business services	35.7	38.4	2.7
Manufacturing	167.4	181.6	14.2
Mining	166.1	113.2	-52.9
Public administration	51.9	41.0	-10.9
Recreation, personal and other services	52.9	75.6	22.7
Transport and storage	138.4	114.0	-24.4
Wholesale and retail trade	59.5	51.5	-8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

(a) The incidence rate is the number of claims not rejected for each 1,000 wage and salary earners in that industry.

Source: NT Work Health Authority Statistical Supplement 1993-94

### Cost of claims

Claims payments by insurers during 1993-94 amounted to \$21.9 million, an increase of 2.2 per cent (\$0.5 million) over 1992-93. The maintenance of weekly wages and salaries accounted for almost half of these payments (\$10.9 million or 49.7 per cent), followed by medical and hospital costs (\$3.4 million or 15.6 per cent).

### Further reading

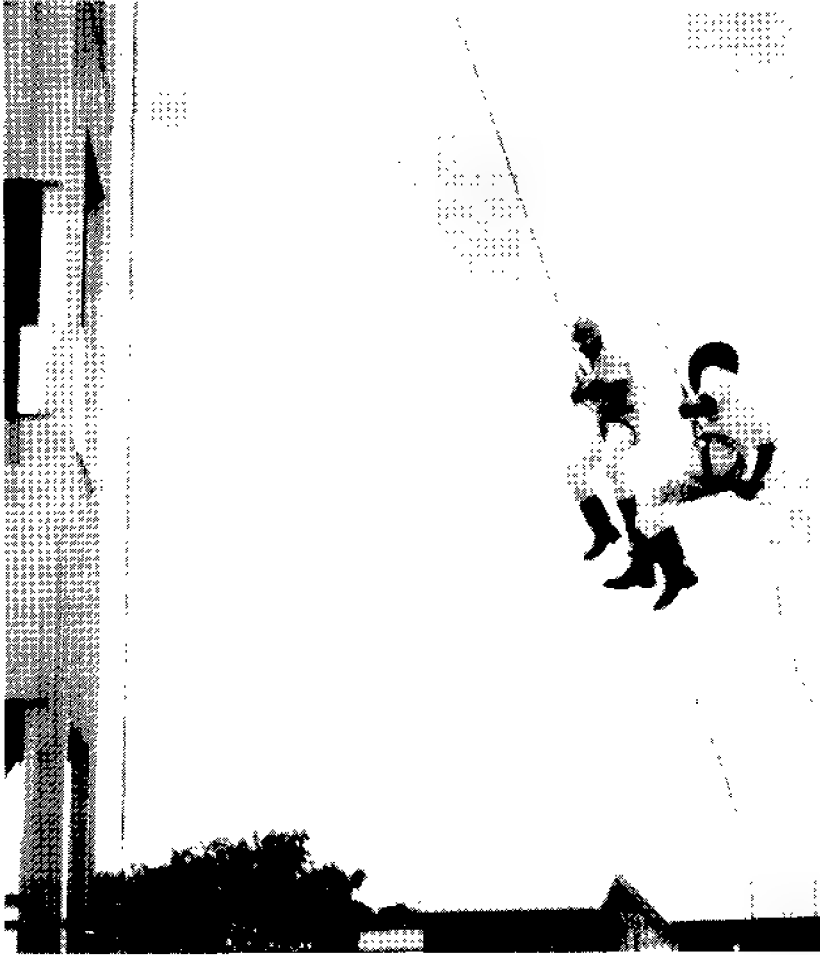
#### ABS publications

*Children's Immunisation, Australia* (4352.0)  
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*Disability, Ageing and Carers: User Guide, Australia, 1993* (4431.0)  
*Disability, Ageing and Carers: Data Reference Package, Australia, 1993* (4432.0)  
*Disability, Ageing and Carers: Visual Impairment, Australia, 1993* (4434.0)  
*Disability, Ageing and Carers: Hearing Impairment, Australia, 1993* (4435.0)  
*Disability, Ageing and Carers: Brain Injury and Stroke, Australia, 1993* (4437.0)  
*Health Behaviours and Risk Factors Survey* (copies are available from the Darwin Office of the ABS)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Detailed Findings* (4190.0)  
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Regional Statistics* (4196.0)  
*National Health Survey 1989-90: Summary of Results, Australia* (4364.0)  
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**Emergency Service training**

Northern Territory Emergency Service volunteers underwent more than 9,400 hours of training in 1994-95.

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*



**Aboriginal Community Police Officer on patrol**

The Territory's police force includes 35 Aboriginal Community Police Officers who operate in remote communities and regional centres.

*Photo: Northern Territory News*

## 10 LAW AND ORDER

In 1983 the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services were amalgamated into a tri-service organisation, with the Commissioner of Police as the Chief Executive Officer. The service describes its mission as serving and protecting the public.

### Police

#### Personnel

At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory's police force consisted of 756 officers, including 35 Aboriginal Community Police Officers who operate in remote communities and regional centres (Table 10.1).

The police force experienced higher than anticipated staff attrition rates during 1993-94, due largely to an aggressive recruitment campaign by the Queensland Police Service, and ended the year with a shortfall of 65 officers. By 30 June 1995 this shortfall had been reduced to 19 officers.

**TABLE 10.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE PERSONNEL**

	1994		1995	
	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual
Executive officers	40	39	37	38
Sergeants	138	134	138	126
Constables	475	433	496	496
Police auxiliary	70	58	70	61
Aboriginal Community Police Officers (formerly Police Aides)	34	28	34	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>756</b>

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Reports (1993-94 and 1994-95)

#### Reported crimes

In 1994-95 there were 25,485 crimes reported to the police in the Northern Territory, an increase of 2,016 (8.6 per cent) over the previous year. The proportional contributions of various selected offences remained relatively stable over the four years to 1994-95 (Table 10.2). Stealing remained the most common offence in 1994-95, accounting for 43.1 per cent (7,190) of all selected offences, followed by unlawful entry/stealing (3,638 or 21.8 per cent).

A total of 5,912 reported offences (23.2 per cent) were cleared in 1994-95 - i.e. the crime report was finalised by either an arrest or a summons.

More than one fifth of selected cleared offences (22.7 per cent or 919) were committed by juvenile offenders (i.e. persons aged 16 years and under), up from 15.2 per cent (889) in 1993-94 but down from 27.1 per cent (1,319) in 1991-92. Unlawful entry/stealing and stealing remained the most common offences committed by juvenile offenders, accounting for 62.4 per cent (573) of all selected cleared offences committed by juvenile offenders in 1994-95.

**TABLE 10.2 SUMMARY OF SELECTED OFFENCES, NORTHERN TERRITORY (a)**

	1991-92		1994-95	
	Reported	% of total	Reported	% of total
Murder	15	0.1	18	0.1
Attempted murder	3	—	6	—
Manslaughter	5	—	6	—
Assault - non sexual	1,798	13.7	2,435	14.6
Assault - sexual	139	1.1	240	1.4
Robbery (b)	66	0.5	65	0.4
Unlawful entry	1,170	8.9	1,397	8.4
Unlawful entry/stealing	3,077	23.5	3,638	21.8
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	957	7.3	1,284	7.7
Criminal deception	366	2.8	393	2.4
Stealing	5,518	42.1	7,190	43.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,114</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16,672</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Totals refer to selected offences, not all offences.

(b) Armed robbery is included in 1994-95 figures only.

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Reports (1991-92 and 1994-95)

#### Reporting of attacks on Indigenous people

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey conducted in 1994 indicated that about 10.2 per cent (3,200) of Indigenous persons aged 13 years and over in the Northern Territory had been physically attacked or verbally threatened in the 12 months preceding the interview. Of those persons who were physically attacked, only 29.9 per cent (900) reported the last incident to the police compared to 38.1 per cent (9,600) nationally. The most common reasons given for not reporting the incident to the police were:

- the person solved it themselves or the perpetrator was known to them (850 or 26.6 per cent);
- the person did not consider that the attack was serious enough (800 or 24.9 per cent); and
- the person did not want to involve the police or feared or disliked the police (400 or 12.7 per cent).

#### Indigenous people's views about the police

Just over one half of survey respondents thought that the police did a good job when dealing with violence (15,800 or 51.1 per cent) while just under one half thought that the police did a good job with family violence (14,700 or 47.6 per cent) and crime (14,500 or 47.0 per cent). The main reasons for dissatisfaction with police in dealing with crime, violence and family violence were that the police did not understand Indigenous people or culture, were too slow to respond or did not respond at all.

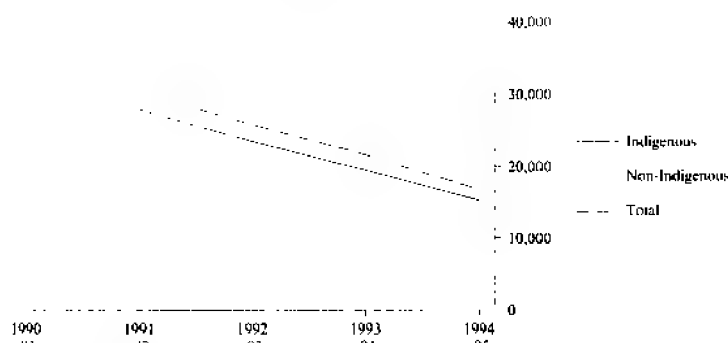
The Survey also asked respondents whether they felt that Indigenous people get along with the police better now than five years ago. Nearly three quarters of respondents (22,100 or 71.7 per cent) felt that relations with police were about the same or better than five years ago while 9.6 per cent (3,000) felt that relations were worse. A further 18.7 per cent (5,800) did not know or did not say.

## Protective custody

The Northern Territory police are empowered to take persons who are intoxicated in public into protective custody. In 1994-95, 16,786 persons were taken into protective custody, a decline of 46.0 per cent (14,303) since 1990-91.

The decline in the number of persons taken into protective custody in recent years is largely attributable to the greater use of sobering-up shelters, the adoption of community supported alcohol-related behaviour strategies by an increasing number of remote communities and improved targetting of foot, vehicle and mounted police patrols at areas of public concern.

GRAPH 10.1 NUMBER OF PERSONS TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Note: A person may be taken into protective custody a number of times during any given year.  
Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Annual Reports

Indigenous persons accounted for an average 91.3 per cent of persons taken into protective custody during the five years to 1994-95 (Graph 10.1). Of these, three quarters (75.1 per cent) were male.

## Prosecutions

In 1994-95 convictions or committals to the Supreme Court were recorded against 17,211 offences, a decline of 8.9 per cent (1,683) since 1990-91. A further 5,657 offences were withdrawn or discharged, an increase of 59.6 per cent (2,113) over the same period. (Note: These figures include offences reported prior to 1994-95 and 1990-91 respectively.)

## Correctional services

### Prisons

At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory had four prisons:

- Darwin Prison, a maximum security, multifunctional prison which holds male and female prisoners;
- Gunn Point Prison Farm, a minimum security prison for male sentenced prisoners, located 76 kilometres by road from Darwin;
- the Alice Springs Gaol and Labour Prison, a maximum security, multifunctional prison which holds male and female prisoners; and
- the Alice Springs Prison, a new multifunctional facility which was officially opened in early 1996. The innovative new prison, located 23 kilometres from Alice Springs, has been designed to meet prevailing national standards and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

All prisoners in the Alice Springs Gaol were transferred to the new Alice Springs Prison by the end of August 1996. Some minimum security

prisoners were transferred permanently to the minimum security residential cottages during 1994-95, prior to its official opening. The old gaol is due to be decommissioned by the end of October 1996.

A daily average of 465 prisoners were held in these prisons during 1994-95 at a daily average cost of \$143 per prisoner. Katherine Police Station held a further six prisoners.

Indigenous persons continued to be over-represented in the Northern Territory's prisons, accounting for 72.6 per cent (342) of prisoners in 1994-95. Of these, 308 had been sentenced while 34 were unsentenced.

- More than one third (38.3 per cent or 118) of Indigenous prisoners who had been sentenced were serving a sentence of 12 months duration or less compared to 13.0 per cent (14) of non-Indigenous prisoners.
- The main offences or charges for which Indigenous prisoners were being held at 30 June 1995 are different to those for which non-Indigenous prisoners were being held (Table 10.3). Indigenous prisoners were most commonly being held for assault (73 or 21.3 per cent), sexual assault (43 or 12.6 per cent) and break and enter offences (35 or 10.2 per cent). Non-Indigenous prisoners were most commonly being held for drug offences (22 or 17.1 per cent) and robbery/armed robbery (16 or 12.4 per cent).

**TABLE 10.3 PRISONERS BY ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ORIGIN AND MAJOR OFFENCE/CHARGE, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total
Murder	16	4.7	15	11.6
Attempted murder	—	—	2	1.6
Manslaughter	22	6.4	8	6.2
Assault - non sexual	73	21.3	8	6.2
Assault - sexual	43	12.6	8	6.2
Robbery/armed robbery	7	2.0	16	12.4
Break and enter	35	10.2	11	8.5
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	23	6.7	1	0.8
Fraud/false pretences	—	—	6	4.7
Stealing/receiving	13	3.8	11	8.5
Drugs	1	0.3	22	17.1
Driving under the influence/exceeding .08% (a)	25	7.3	2	1.6
Other	84	24.6	19	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) On 1 December 1994, a reading between 0.05 and 0.08% became an offence.

Source: Department of Correctional Services Annual Report 1994-95



During 1994-95 the Department of Correctional Services introduced a number of initiatives to address areas of concern including: expanding the Home Based Detention program into remote communities; increasing the number of Aboriginal Community Corrections Officers employed in communities; and training selected Aboriginal prisoners as health workers.

**Juvenile detention centres**

At 30 June 1995 the Northern Territory had two juvenile detention centres:

- the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre, located in an outer suburb of Darwin; and
- the Wildman River Wilderness Work Camp, located on the edge of Kakadu National Park, about 170 kilometres from Darwin.

A daily average of 17 juvenile detainees were held in these centres during 1994-95 at a daily average cost of \$411 per detainee.

**Fire service**

The Northern Territory Fire Service maintains nine permanently staffed fire stations while a further 15 communities are serviced by volunteer brigades. The Fire Service attended a total of 4,685 calls in 1994-95.

During the year members of the Fire Service also provided four training courses in shipboard firefighting and wharf safety procedures in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

**Emergency service**

The Northern Territory Emergency Service had 11 permanent staff and 336 volunteers during 1994-95. During the year these volunteers underwent 9,425 hours of training and contributed 1,744 hours of community service in addition to expending 2,667 hours in attendance at 94 emergency operations.

**Further reading****ABS publications**

*Crime and Safety, Australia* (4509.0)

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Detailed Findings* (4190.0)

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Getting Results - Australian Summary* (4191.0)

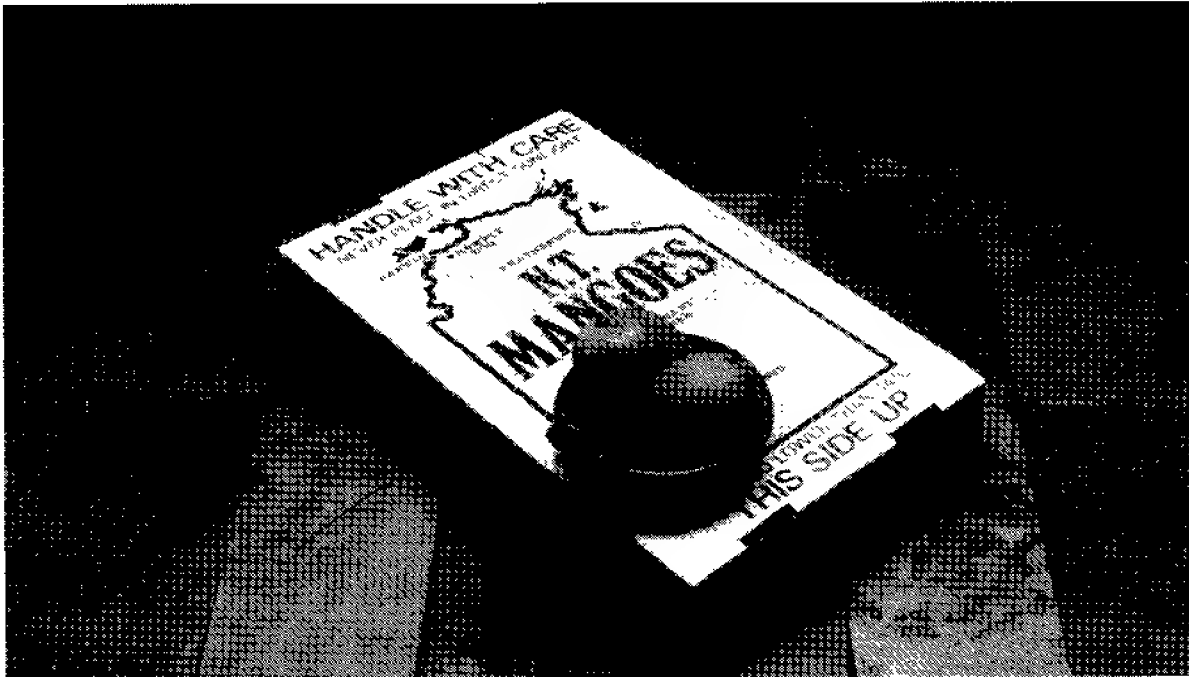
*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Regional Overviews* (4192.0)

*National Crime Statistics* (4510.0)

*National Crime Statistics - Information Paper* (4511.0)

**Non-ABS publications**

Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, *Annual Report*  
Department of Correctional Services, *Annual Report*



### **Mangoes ready for export**

The Territory's horticulture and field crop production was valued at \$25.3 million in the 1993-94 season.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



### **Preparing crocodile meat**

Crocodile farming is a growing industry in the Northern Territory, producing meat and skins to the value of \$1.8 million in 1994-95.

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*

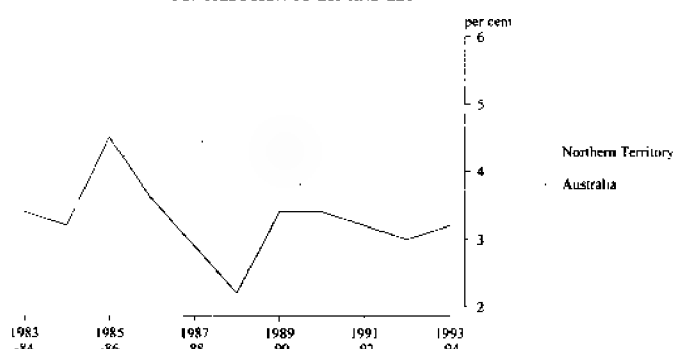
### Economic importance

Rural industries played a major role in pioneering the development of the Northern Territory. Primary industries in the Territory include pastoral, other livestock (including crocodile, poultry and camel), horticulture (fruit, vegetables, nursery and cut flowers), other agriculture (field crops, hay and seeds) and fishing (harvesting of wildstock and aquaculture). Both the agriculture and fishing industries continue to be significant contributors to diversified regional economic growth by providing employment opportunities and export income for Territorians, especially those living in remote areas.

#### Contribution to Gross State Product

In 1993-94 the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries contributed 3.2 per cent to the Northern Territory's Gross State Product (GSP). Nationally these industries contributed 3.4 per cent to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the 1990s the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fishing to both the Territory and Australian economies has been relatively consistent (Graph 11.1).

GRAPH 11.1 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO GSP AND GDP



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0

#### Value of production

In 1993-94 the total value of agricultural and fishing production in the Northern Territory was \$206.7 million, an increase of 27.7 per cent (\$44.8 million) over the last five years (Table 11.1).

TABLE 11.1 VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY

	1988-89	1993-94	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Field crops and horticulture (a)	17.3	25.3	46.2
Livestock slaughterings/other disposals and livestock products (b)	115.0	113.6	-1.2
Fish (c)	29.7	67.8	128.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>162.0</b>	<b>206.7</b>	<b>27.7</b>

(a) Figures relate to years ended 31 March.

(b) Includes livestock movements interstate and exported live overseas, dressed poultry and livestock products such as milk and eggs.

(c) Includes crustaceans, molluscs and Mother of Pearl shell.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 7113.7

While the value of field crops and horticulture and fishing increased substantially over this period, the value of livestock and livestock products decreased slightly.

### Agricultural activity

At 31 March 1994 there were 316 agricultural producers in the Northern Territory with a total area under holding of 69,887,422 hectares (Table 11.2). This area under holding represents just over half of the Territory's land mass.

**TABLE 11.2 TOTAL AREA OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBER OF PRODUCERS BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA AT 31 MARCH 1994, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Statistical Local Area	Total area of holding	Producers
	Hectares	No.
Tableland	13,143,613	21
Victoria	11,466,914	30
Sandover - Balance	10,006,563	35
Tanami	7,759,670	26
Petermann	7,304,576	18
Elsey - Balance	6,421,471	42
Tennant Creek - Balance	5,986,127	12
Gulf	5,675,160	15
Daly	1,260,655	13
South Alligator	530,328	8
Litchfield Shire - Part B	120,472	61
Other	211,873	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,887,422</b>	<b>316</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 7113.7

The largest number of producers (61) were in the Litchfield area but these held the least land with an average of 1,975 hectares each. In contrast, the 21 producers in the Tableland area held an average of 625,886 hectares each.

### Pastoral and other livestock industries

The introduction of the National Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign in the 1970s and its subsequent operations have entailed some fundamental changes to cattle and buffalo production in the Territory. After the campaign's destocking of diseased cattle, pastoralists have been restocking with more appropriate breeds (Brahman and Brahman cross) and so improving the genetic makeup of the cattle herd. The buffalo industry is also in a rebuilding and restructuring phase after the short term impact of the campaign.

At March 1995 there were 1.4 million head of cattle and 10,880 domesticated buffalo in the Territory (Table 11.3). The Northern Territory also has a number of other livestock industries which supply eggs, poultry meat (including quail), pork, camel meat, fresh milk, live exports (horses, camels, donkeys, goats) and crocodile skins and flesh.

## Crocodile farming

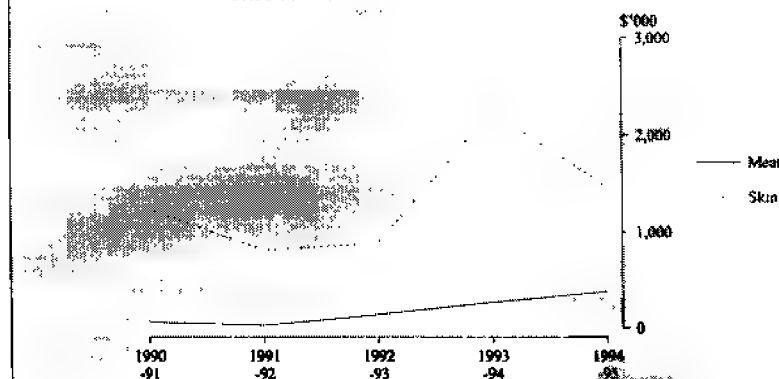
There are **seven crocodile farms in the Northern Territory** with more than 30,000 animals. These farms **operate** on the sale of skins, which have long been valued as luxury goods, and crocodile meat, which is a white meat that is low in fat. Some farms have also developed tourism facilities which has proven to be a very profitable aspect of crocodile farming.

Saltwater crocodiles are the main animals **farmed**. Hatchelling crocodiles are kept in pens that are maintained at a temperature of 32 degrees Celsius. The need for seclusion is instinctive in crocodiles so they are given opportunities to hide to avoid the risk of them being smothered while trying to find seclusion in pens with inadequate facilities.

As the crocodiles become yearlings they become easier to care for as temperature and seclusion are not as vital. Yearlings and older crocodiles are placed in pens which have a certain degree of exposure to the environment. This enables them to control their own body temperature by thermoregulation - that is, by basking in the sun or cooling down in the shade or water. The water must be drinkable and deep enough to allow them to submerge.

Crocodiles are usually fed chicken heads and red meat with supplements. Maximum growth depends on high levels of protein and calcium and the lowest possible level of fat. Nutritional problems suffered by crocodiles include bone diseases due to a lack of calcium, starvation, steatitis and thiamine deficiency. Opportunistic bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi can also affect crocodiles if ideal conditions are not maintained. In addition, crocodiles are easily stressed and a simple disturbance to their routine can often result in no feeding for a few days with a resultant loss of production.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF CROCODILE MEAT AND CROCODILE SKIN  
PRODUCED IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Northern Territory Primary Industry and Fisheries Statistics, 1990-91 to 1993-94

In 1994-95 crocodile meat and skins to the value of \$1.8 million were produced in the Northern Territory, up 43.1 per cent (\$0.6 million) since 1990-91. Most of the increase is attributable to crocodile meat production which increased more than sixfold in value to \$377,200 in 1994-95 while the value of crocodile skins produced increased by 20 per cent (\$0.2 million) to \$1.5 million.

There is a great potential market for crocodile products. With Australia's input currently at a minimum level the economic viability of crocodile farming in the future appears to be assured.

Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

**TABLE 11.3      SELECTED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON HOLDINGS AT 31 MARCH, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1990	1995	Change over period %
Cattle	1,327,122	1,420,874	7.1
Domesticated buffalo	13,399	10,880	-18.8
Pigs	2,472	2,641	6.8
Goats	890	345	-61.2
Horses	11,718	9,103	-22.3

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 7113.7 and AgStats

## Cattle exports

The Northern Territory is at the centre of Australia's burgeoning live cattle trade into south-east Asia. In 1995 the Territory provided about 30 per cent of all live cattle exports to south-east Asia and approximately 60 per cent of all live cattle exports to Asia were shipped through the Port of Darwin. Cattle from some Territory properties are also exported through the Port of Wyndham in Western Australia (Table 11.4).

**TABLE 11.4      NORTHERN TERRITORY LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS BY DESTINATION, 1995**

Destination	Live cattle exports			Value \$m
	Via Darwin No.	Via Wyndham No.	Total No.	
Brunei	5,693	—	5,693	3.2
Indonesia	50,676	3,487	54,163	27.2
Philippines	67,117	3,194	70,311	28.3
Sabah	6,626	—	6,626	3.7
West Malaysia	4,902	1,626	6,528	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,014</b>	<b>8,307</b>	<b>143,321</b>	<b>65.7</b>

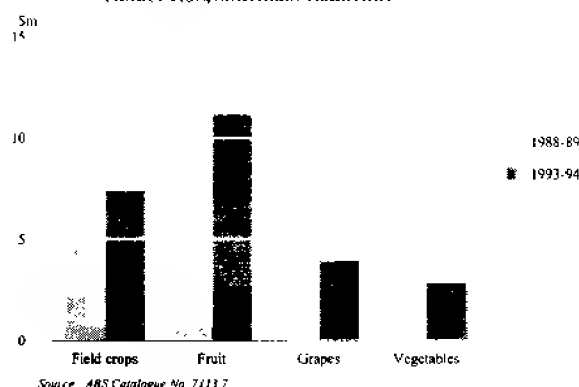
Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

## Horticulture and crops

Northern Territory horticulture and field crop production in the 1993-94 season was valued at \$25.3 million, an increase of \$0.5 million from the previous season. The value of fruit production increased by \$1.2 million, mainly due to an increase in mango production.

Over the past five years the value of horticulture and field crop production in the Territory has increased by \$8.0 million (46.2 per cent). The value of fruit production increased by \$9.4 million while the value of vegetable production decreased by \$5.0 million (Graph 11.2).

GRAPH 11.2 VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY



## Live cattle exports - an historical overview

### Early pastoral settlement

Although small numbers of cattle were brought into the Territory during the early military settlements in the 1820s, significant pastoral settlement did not begin until the mid 1870s, mainly in the Alice Springs district. Pastoral settlement spread rapidly in the 1880s with stock brought by overland droving from Queensland and South Australia. By 1888 there were 218,874 cattle and 107,078 sheep and 251,680 square miles (65.2 million hectares) were under pastoral lease.

Settlement proceeded despite considerable difficulties with respect to: markets; lack of facilities for meat processing; diseases such as redwater fever and ticks; the tropical climate and drought; and problems associated with isolation. By 1910 the majority of the areas currently utilised by the pastoral industry were occupied.

### Early exports of live cattle

A small trial shipment of cattle was sent to Hong Kong in 1885. As a result of this shipment the South Australian Government introduced a scheme providing a subsidy of £5,000 a year to any contractor engaging in live cattle export trade. In 1892 eight shipments containing about 200 head of cattle each were made to Singapore and Batavia (Jakarta). About 2,000 head of cattle continued to be exported each year until the Dutch authorities banned further live exports to Batavia in 1896 (because of the dangers of redwater fever) and trade with Singapore ceased in 1897 due to heavy financial losses.

### Re-emergence of live cattle exports to south-east Asia

Live export of cattle to south-east Asia re-emerged in 1975 after brief revivals in 1947-48, the late 1950s and the early 1960s. However it was not until the early 1990s that south-east Asia emerged as a dynamic and significant new market for Northern Territory cattle, following changes to the economic policies of some countries which led to a greater opening up of the market for live cattle imports. Over the last few years higher prices in the live cattle export trade have greatly enhanced the future viability of the cattle industry, particularly in the North. The live export trade has set a competitive price pattern for feeder and slaughter steers in the Territory, underpinning all markets for store cattle and adding value to breeding cattle and even to properties.

Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

## Nursery products

In 1993-94 total sales of nursery products in the Northern Territory amounted to \$14.5 million. Retail sales accounted for just over half (\$7.3 million) of all sales, including \$1.5 million for nursery greenstock and \$1.8 million for cut flowers and foliage. Retail sales of both nursery greenstock and cut flowers increased by just under 30 per cent from the previous year (Table 11.5).

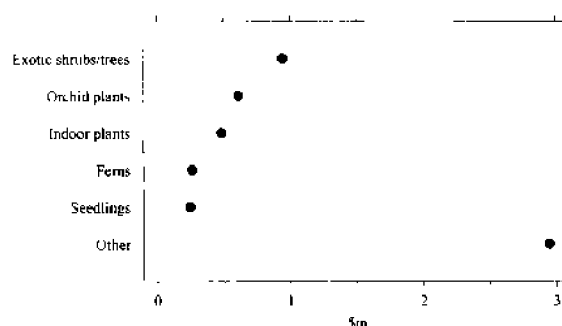
**TABLE 11.5 NURSERY SALES BY ACTIVITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1992-93	1993-94	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Nursery greenstock	4.5	5.5	21.9
Other	n.p.	1.1	..
<i>Total production sales</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	6.6	..
<i>Total wholesaling</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	0.1	..
Nursery greenstock	1.2	1.5	28.7
Cut flowers and foliage	1.4	1.8	28.0
Garden accessories	0.5	2.9	453.2
Other	0.3	1.1	277.2
<i>Total retailing</i>	3.4	7.3	114.9
<i>Total plant hire</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	0.4	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>n.p.</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>..</b>

Source: ABS Nursery, Cut Flower and Cultivated Turf Statistics, Australia

Production sales of nursery greenstock amounted to \$5.5 million in 1993-94, an increase of just over 20 per cent from the previous year. Major contributors to this total were exotic shrubs and trees (\$947,400), orchid plants (\$615,000), indoor plants (\$484,500), ferns (\$264,600) and seedlings (\$249,300) (Graph 11.3).

**GRAPH 11.3 PRODUCTION SALES OF NURSERY GREENSTOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1993-94**



Source: ABS unpublished data



## Fishing industries

The Northern Territory fishing industry comprises commercial, recreational and traditional sectors. The commercial sector includes the harvesting of wildstock fisheries (dominated by prawns), aquaculture (dominated by high quality pearl production) and the processing, trade and retailing of seafood. The aquaculture of species other than pearls is in the development stage, with barramundi and prawns being grown commercially in 1995, and research is continuing on mud crabs and golden snapper. Continued emphasis is being placed on the ongoing management of all aquatic resources and by the end of 1997 all major fisheries will have been placed under formal management plans.

In 1993-94 the value of fish caught in the Territory was \$8.8 million, an increase of 36.3 per cent (\$2.3 million) from the previous year. The value of crustaceans increased by 14.2 per cent over the same period due to a large increase in the value of the prawn catch in 1993-94 (Table 11.6).

**TABLE 11.6 CATCH OF SELECTED SPECIES OF FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Species	Catch live weight	Estimated value		
	1993-94	1992-93	1993-94	Change over period
	tonnes	\$'000	\$'000	%
Barramundi	472	2,073	2,111	1.8
Mackerel	398	727	1,131	55.6
Shark	496	935	941	0.6
Snapper	1,093	1,192	3,350	181.0
Other	613	1,535	1,273	-17.1
<i>Total fish</i>	<i>3,072</i>	<i>6,462</i>	<i>8,806</i>	<i>36.3</i>
Prawn	3,734	41,861	47,933	14.5
Mud crab	244	2,052	2,339	14.0
Other	6	143	28	-80.4
<i>Total crustaceans</i>	<i>3,983</i>	<i>44,056</i>	<i>50,300</i>	<i>14.2</i>
Scallops	1	12	3	-75.0
Other	22	24	61	154.2
<i>Total molluscs</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>75.3</i>
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>7,078</b>	<b>50,555</b>	<b>59,169</b>	<b>17.0</b>

(a) Excludes weight and value of Trepang.

Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Northern Territory Primary Industry and Fisheries Statistics, 1992-93 and 1993-94

### Further reading

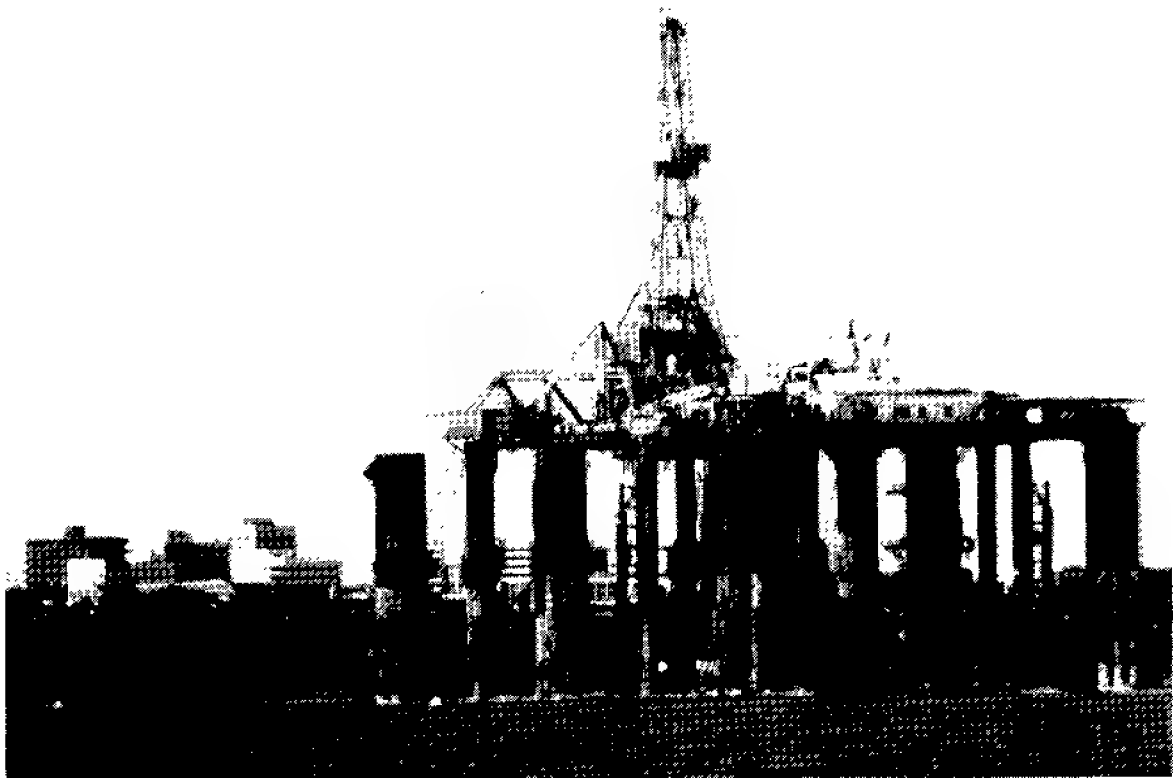
#### ABS publications

*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (5220.0)  
*Agriculture, Australia* (7113.0)  
*Agriculture and Fishing, Northern Territory* (7113.7)  
*AgStats on CD-ROM* (7115.0)  
*Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0)  
*Information Paper: Horticulture Statistics* (7331.0)  
*Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (7503.0)  
*Agricultural Industries. Financial Statistics, Australia* (7507.0)  
*Nursery, Cut Flower and Cultivated Turf Statistics, Australia* (available on request)

#### Non-ABS publications

NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Annual Report*  
NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Northern Territory Primary Industry and Fisheries Statistics* (annual)  
NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, *Top Paddock* (Newsletter)  
Northern Territory of Australia, *Northern Territory Economy* (Budget Paper No. 6)





**OH rig in Darwin Harbour**

Production of crude oil in the Territory has been declining since 1991-92.

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*

# 12 MINING AND ENERGY

## Mining

### Contribution to the economy

The mining industry is an important part of the economy of Australia, contributing over 4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounting for almost a quarter of its exports. In the Northern Territory, the mining and resource sector represents an even greater proportion of economic activity, contributing around 20 per cent to Gross State Product (GSP) (Table 12.1).

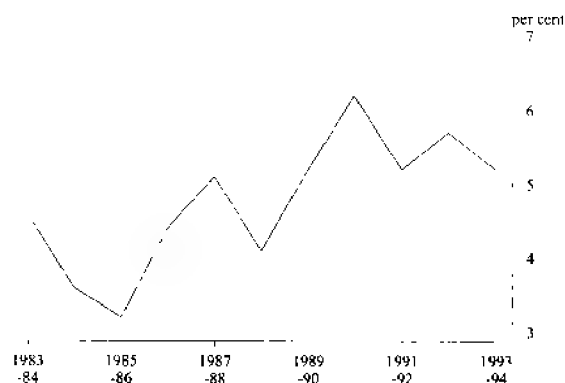
**TABLE 12.1 MINING SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO GSP AND MINING GDP, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Mining GSP	Contribution to total GSP	Contribution to mining GDP
	\$m	%	%
1983-84	422	20.6	4.6
1984-85	356	16.1	3.6
1985-86	356	14.3	3.2
1986-87	495	17.9	4.4
1987-88	619	20.6	5.1
1988-89	486	15.2	4.1
1989-90	760	20.5	5.2
1990-91	1,039	25.6	6.2
1991-92	845	21.0	5.2
1992-93	976	23.5	5.7
1993-94	851	20.1	5.2

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0

Mining in the Territory has undergone a considerable period of expansion in the 1990s. Large scale operations which have commenced include the rich Mt Todd and Union Reefs gold mines near Pine Creek and the McArthur River lead/zinc/silver mine, one of the largest such deposits in the world. In 1983-84, 4.6 per cent of Australian mining's contribution to GDP was generated in the Northern Territory. In the 1990s this has risen to be consistently above 5 per cent (Graph 12.1).

**GRAPH 12.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY MINING CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIAN MINING**



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0

## Mining and energy

**Number of establishments** At 30 June 1995 there were 35 mining establishments in the Territory employing 1,742 people, an increase of 5 establishments and 279 employees from the previous year. Capital expenditure by these establishments increased by 50.9 per cent to \$122.7 million, while turnover increased by 15.2 per cent to \$1,351.8 million (Table 12.2).

**TABLE 12.2 SUMMARY OF MINING OPERATIONS (a), NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1993-94	1994-95	Change over period %
Establishments (No.)	30	35	16.7
Employment (persons)	1,463	1,742	19.1
Wages and salaries (\$m)	89.8	101.6	13.1
Turnover (\$m)	1,173.5	1,351.8	15.2
Value added (\$m)	825.2	987.1	19.6
Capital expenditure (\$m)	81.3	122.7	50.9

(a) Includes oil and gas extraction and metal ore mining.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8401.0

## Minerals

**Exploration** Despite some 3,500 known mineral occurrences, the Northern Territory is still comparatively under-explored and therefore has a substantial potential for future significant mineral discoveries, including gold, base metals, uranium, platinum group metals, tin, tungsten, molybdenum, manganese, bauxite and diamonds.

Major mineral exploration interest in the Territory is centred on six main areas:

- Darwin/Arnhem Land/Katherine region for uranium, base metals, gold and diamonds;
- Victoria River/Keep River/Bonaparte Gulf region for diamonds and base metals;
- McArthur Basin for diamonds, base metals, manganese and bauxite;
- Tennant Creek region for gold, copper, bismuth and silver;
- Tanami region for gold; and
- Central Australia for base metals, tungsten, molybdenum, gemstones and industrial minerals.

In 1994-95, \$75.8 million was spent on mineral exploration in the Northern Territory (Table 12.3), an increase of \$21.9 million (40.6 per cent) from 1990-91. The main increase in expenditure was on exploration for gold, up \$12.7 million (41.8 per cent), while expenditure on uranium exploration decreased by \$2.2 million to \$1.5 million. During the five years to 1994-95 expenditure on mineral exploration in the Territory averaged 9.2 per cent of total Australian expenditure.

**TABLE 12.3 MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Mineral	Expenditure	Proportion of total expenditure	
	1994-95	1990-91	1994-95
	\$m	%	%
Base metals	18.6	22.6	24.5
Gold	43.1	56.4	56.9
Uranium	1.5	6.9	2.0
Diamonds	8.9	13.4	11.7
Other	3.7	0.7	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8412.0

**Production** Internationally Australia continues to be a leading mineral resource nation. It is one of the world's top six countries for commodities such as bauxite, gold, iron ore, lead, zinc, mineral sands and uranium.

The Northern Territory is a world class mineral province. It contains known deposits of manganese, uranium, gold, bauxite, zinc, lead, bismuth, copper, palladium and tantalite, amongst others. In 1993-94 the Northern Territory contributed 6.3 per cent to the total value of Australia's metallic mineral production (Table 12.4).

**TABLE 12.4 METALLIC MINERALS PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Mineral	Unit	Quantity	Value	
			Total	Proportion of Australian total
			\$m	%
Bauxite	kilotonnes	5,734	129.9	16.8
Gold bullion (dore)	kilograms	18,201	331.0	8.1
Gold ore (a)	tonnes	7	1.9	n.a.
Lead concentrate	kilotonnes	21	2.4	1.0
Manganese ore				
Metallurgical grade	kilotonnes	815	80.1	100.0
Other grades	kilotonnes	663	52.8	n.a.
Uranium concentrate (a)	tonnes	1,457	69.8	n.a.
Zinc concentrate	kilotonnes	60	18.1	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>686.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>

(a) The Australian totals for these commodities exclude data for South Australia so the proportion of Australian total cannot be calculated.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8414.0

The value of gold bullion (dore) produced in the Northern Territory during 1993-94 was \$331.0 million, which represented 48.3 per cent of the total value of metallic minerals produced in the Territory. Other major commodities were bauxite

(\$129.9 million or 18.9 per cent), metallurgical grade manganese (\$80.1 million or 11.7 per cent) and uranium concentrate (\$69.8 million or 10.2 per cent).

### Royalties and secondary taxes

#### Mineral royalties

Mineral resources are owned by the Crown in Australia. Royalties are collected by State and Territory governments for mining onshore and up to three nautical miles offshore and by the Commonwealth Government outside that limit.

**TABLE 12.5 MINERAL ROYALTY RECEIPTS, STATES AND TERRITORIES**

Government	1989-90	1993-94	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Northern Territory	24.1	28.7	19.1
New South Wales	129.0	158.0	22.5
Victoria	60.1	48.6	-19.1
Queensland	208.8	301.7	44.5
South Australia	44.0	61.1	38.9
Western Australia	244.3	285.2	16.7
Tasmania	6.4	3.9	-39.1
Commonwealth	273.1	100.3	-63.3
Total	989.8	987.6	-0.2

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 1301.0

#### Petroleum taxes

In addition to general taxation arrangements applying to companies in Australia, petroleum production projects are subject to secondary taxes. The type and rate of secondary taxation (resource rent tax, resource rent royalty or excise and royalties) depends on the location of the petroleum resource, the date of discovery of the petroleum reservoir and the date upon which production commenced.

### Energy

#### Petroleum exploration

Petroleum exploration in the Northern Territory occurs onshore as well as in three areas offshore:

- the Territorial Sea which is the submerged lands adjacent to the coast of the Territory, that is landwards of the three nautical miles beyond the low water mark or baseline;
- the Northern Territory Adjacent Area, the area beyond the three nautical mile limit (including the Timor Gap Zone of Cooperation with Indonesia - Area B) which is administered through a Joint Authority/Designated Authority structure; and
- the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Adjacent Area which is administered by the the Northern Territory on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

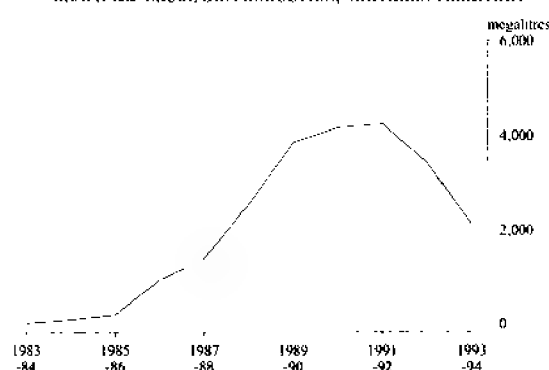


The Bureau of Resource Sciences anticipates that successes in the Timor Gap will lift Australia's petroleum self-sufficiency level to about 73 per cent by the year 2000. However without further discoveries this will drop back to 47 per cent by 2005.

## Oil and gas production

In 1983-84 there was little oil and gas production in the Northern Territory. Production of crude oil increased steadily to a peak of 4,240 megalitres in 1991-92 but has since declined (Graph 12.2).

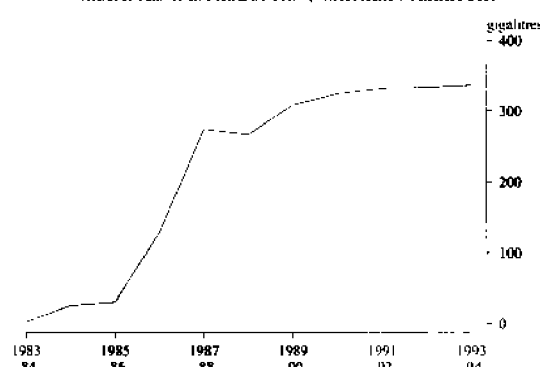
GRAPH 12.2 CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8414.0

Production of natural gas increased to 325 gigalitres in 1990-91 and has remained constant since (Graph 12.3).

GRAPH 12.3 GAS PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8414.0

From 1989-90 to 1993-94 the value of crude oil produced in the Northern Territory decreased by 40.3 per cent to \$319.4 million (Table 12.6). This represented 6.7 per cent of the total value of crude oil produced in Australia. During the same period the value of natural gas increased by 16.2 per cent to \$23.0 million, which was 1.9 per cent of the value of Australian production.

TABLE 12.6 VALUE OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY

	1989-90	1993-94	Change over period
	\$m	\$m	%
Crude oil - stabilised	534.8	319.4	-40.3
Natural gas	19.8	23.0	16.2
Total	554.6	342.4	-38.3

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8414.0

### Energy services

The Power and Water Authority (PAWA) is responsible for the provision of electric power supply, water supply and sewerage services throughout the Northern Territory, servicing not only large urban areas but also many small remote communities and Aboriginal outstations. The Aboriginal Essential Services Branch operates and maintains power services to 68 remote communities across the Territory. The Branch also maintains minor water supply systems to about 600 Aboriginal outstations. PAWA has also entered into a 20 year agreement with McArthur River Mining to supply electricity for the new lead, zinc and silver mine in the Gulf region.

PAWA also has responsibility for water resources and natural gas development. Natural gas pipelines from the Amadeus Basin in central Australia supply Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, all of which use indigenous natural gas - replacing imported heavy fuel oil and distillate as fuel for electricity generation.

In 1994-95 PAWA provided services to more than 60,000 customers, most of whom were in the residential sector. Total electricity generated was 1,317 GWh. Total electricity sales were \$175.2 million, comprising \$44.3 million in domestic sales, \$82.8 million in commercial sales and \$48.1 million in government sales.

### Environment protection

In 1993-94 mining establishments in the Northern Territory reported expenditure of \$9.6 million on environment protection (Table 12.7). Territory establishments spent 1.4 per cent of all current expenditure on environment protection, compared to the national average of 1.2 per cent, and 5.6 per cent of all capital expenditure, much higher than the national average of 1.3 per cent.

**TABLE 12.7 EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	Expenditure on environment protection	Proportion of total mining expenditure	
		Northern Territory	Australia
	\$m	%	%
Current expenditure	4.9	1.4	1.2
Capital expenditure	4.7	5.6	1.3
Total expenditure	9.6	2.2	1.2

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8414.0

### Further reading

#### ABS publications

*Year Book Australia* (1301.0)

*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (5220.0)

*Mining Industry, Australia* (8401.0)

*Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia* (8412.0)

*Mining Technology Statistics, Australia* (8413.0)

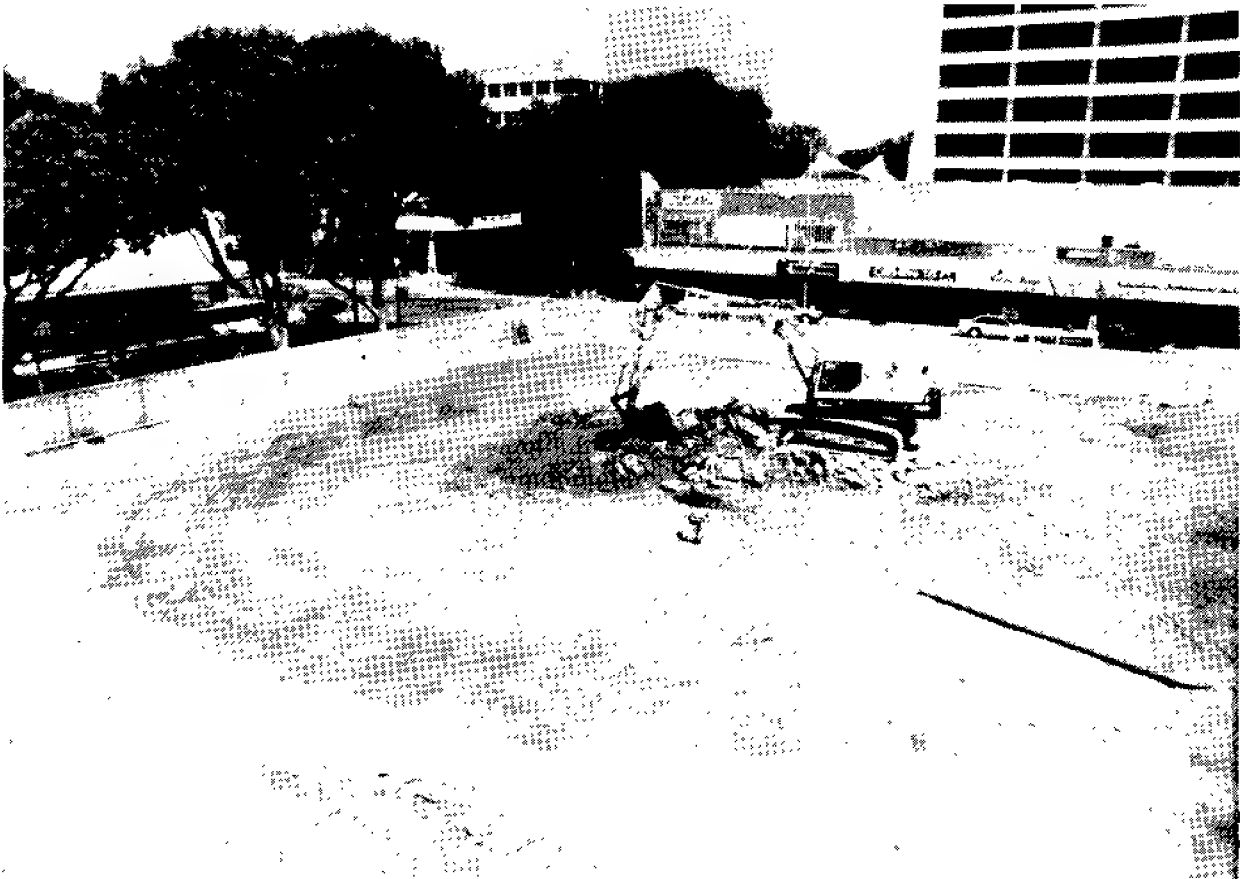
*The Australian Mining Industry* (8414.0)

**Non-ABS publications**

NT Department of Mines and Energy, *Annual Report*

NT Department of Mines and Energy, *Mining and Energy Development in Today's  
Northern Territory: Projects and Potential*

Power and Water Authority, *Annual Report*



**The site of the old Darwin GPO before construction work began on a major new development**

Non-residential building jobs valued at \$184.5 million were approved in 1994-95.

*Photo: Northern Territory News*



**The new Wugularr Council Office**

*Photo: Northern Building Consultants*

## Housing

The Census of Population and Housing, conducted every five years, provides information about the housing of the population of the Northern Territory.

### Number of dwellings

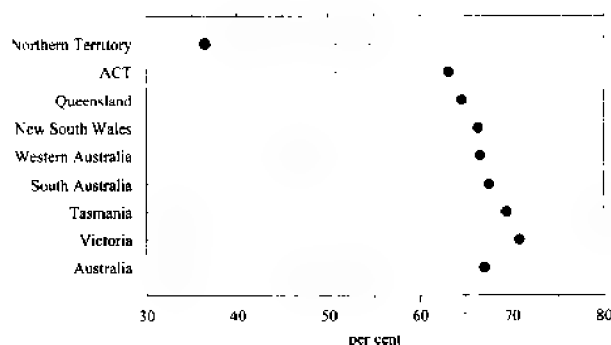
At the 1991 Census there were 53,641 dwellings in the Northern Territory excluding hotels, motels, hospitals, gaols, boarding schools, etc. At the time of the Census 3,076 of these dwellings were unoccupied. Almost half (26,217 or 48.9 per cent) of all dwellings were in the Darwin-Palmerston area.

Between 1991-92 and 1994-95 a further 5,349 dwellings were completed in the Territory, bringing the total number of dwellings in the Territory to an estimated 58,990 at 30 June 1995.

### Home ownership

While home ownership by Territorians increased during the 1980s, it is still far below that of any other State or Territory. At the 1991 Census only 36.5 per cent (18,431) of occupied dwellings in the Territory were owned or being purchased (Table 13.1) compared to 67.0 per cent nationally (Graph 13.1).

GRAPH 13.1 OCCUPIED DWELLINGS OWNED OR BEING PURCHASED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1991



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 2722.0

Home ownership levels were highest in the Darwin-Palmerston area (10,644 or 43.1 per cent) and significantly lower in the regional centres such as Alice Springs (2,835 or 35.5 per cent), Katherine (760 or 27.5 per cent), Tennant Creek (244 or 22.8 per cent), Nhulunbuy (41 or 3.7 per cent) and Jabiru (6 or 1.8 per cent). The lower levels of ownership in these areas reflects the high proportion of Defence housing in Katherine and employer-provided housing in the mining towns.

Of the 24,841 occupied dwellings in the Territory which were being rented at the 1991 Census, almost half (11,637 or 46.8 per cent) were being rented from the Government (Table 13.1). This was the highest proportion of any State or Territory and considerably higher than the national average of 25.7 per cent. The proportion of Government rentals was much higher than the Territory average in Katherine (1,100 or 68.5 per cent) but much lower in areas such as Jabiru (83 or 26.1 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (253 or 26.4 per cent).

**TABLE 13.1 OCCUPIED DWELLINGS BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991**

Nature of occupancy	Occupied private dwellings	
	No.	%
Owned	7,390	14.6
Being purchased	11,041	21.9
Rented		
Government	11,637	23.0
Other	12,621	25.0
Not stated	583	1.2
Total	24,841	49.2
Other (a)	7,256	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Comprises 'other/inadequately described' and 'not stated'.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 2272.7

## Types of dwellings

More than half (31,141 or 61.6 per cent) of the occupied dwellings in the Territory at the 1991 Census were separate houses, compared to 77.5 per cent nationally, while flats, apartments and semi-detached houses comprised 21.4 per cent (10,793) of occupied dwellings (Table 13.2). The proportion of flats, apartments and semi-detached houses was highest in the Darwin-Palmerston area (7,165 or 29.0 per cent) and lower in the regional centres such as Katherine (449 or 16.2 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (219 or 19.9 per cent).

**TABLE 13.2 OCCUPIED DWELLINGS BY TYPE OF DWELLING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991**

Type of dwelling	Occupied private dwellings	
	No.	%
Separate house	31,141	61.6
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, town house etc	3,853	7.6
Flat or apartment	6,940	13.7
Caravan etc in caravan park	4,748	9.4
Other/not stated	3,846	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 2272.7

## Housing loans

In 1994-95 banks and other credit agencies approved loans to the value of \$344.6 million to 3,567 individuals for the purchase of new or established dwellings in the Northern Territory (Table 13.3). After a significant rise of 1,436 or 61.6 per cent in 1992-93 the number of such loan approvals rose only slightly in 1993-94 and fell by 8.4 per cent (326) in 1994-95. The value of loans approved for the purchase of dwellings more than doubled over the same period (up \$175.4 million or 103.7 per cent).

Banks and other credit agencies also approved loans for alterations and additions to the value of \$25.4 million in 1994-95, almost six times higher than the amount approved in 1991-92 (\$4.3 million).

**TABLE 13.3 HOUSING LOANS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Particulars	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	— No. —			
Loans approved to individuals for housing				
Construction of dwellings	389	626	719	786
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	184	238	219	195
Purchase of established dwellings	1,760	2,905	2,955	2,586
Total dwellings	2,333	3,769	3,893	3,567
Refinancing (a)	164	161	404	413
<b>Total loans approved</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>3,980</b>

(a) Excludes refinancing within the same institution.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5609.0

### Defence's housing requirements for the move North

The move to the North of the continent of major elements of the Army (see the special article in Chapter 4 for further information) has placed special demands on the capabilities of the Defence Housing Authority which has the prime objective of meeting the annual defence housing requirement in numbers and locations advised by Headquarters Australian Defence Force.

In 1994-95 the target of 95 additional Defence houses in the Darwin region was exceeded and enabled the Defence Force to reduce the number of Defence Force families who were required to rent housing on the private market.

The limited market for established houses in Darwin has required the Authority to look substantially to construction to meet its housing needs. A major problem has been the lack of adequate suitable land close to the location of the new Defence installations. In an innovative deal reached with the Northern Territory Government, the Authority acquired two parcels of land at Palmerston totalling 195 hectares, which is to be mainly paid for by the Authority extending the Palmerston Golf Course from a nine to an 18 hole course up to a maximum outlay of \$4.7 million. The Palmerston acquisitions are being developed under joint venture arrangements with a private developer. The project is expected to house 3,500 - 4,000 people in the proposed Palmerston suburb of Durack by the turn of the century.

The housing estate on base at HMAS Coonawarra, a Navy shore establishment about 12 kilometres from the Darwin city centre, has also been expanded to house both Navy and Army families. An additional 32 dwellings were constructed in 1994-95 and a further 30 dwellings were commenced. In addition, 16 courtyard style houses are being constructed on RAAF Base Darwin.

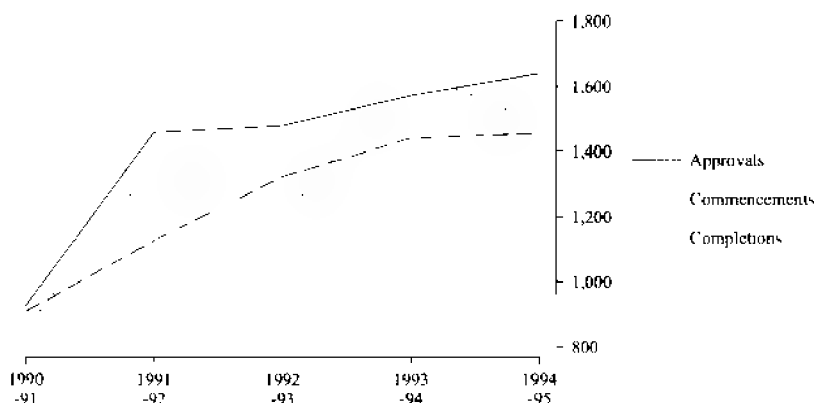
Sources: Defence Housing Authority, Annual Report 1994-95 and ABS Catalogue No. 1362.7.

## Construction

### Building approvals

In 1994-95 there were 1,641 dwellings units approved for construction in the Northern Territory, an increase of 4.5 per cent (70) on the previous year (Table 13.4). Of these, 62.7 per cent (1,029) were approvals for houses and 37.3 per cent (612) were for other dwelling units.

GRAPH 13.2 NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8731.7 and 8752.7

Approvals for houses were concentrated in Palmerston-East Arm (294 or 28.6 per cent) and Darwin Rural Areas (252 or 24.5 per cent) while the majority of approvals for dwelling units other than houses were in the Darwin City area (375 or 61.3 per cent).

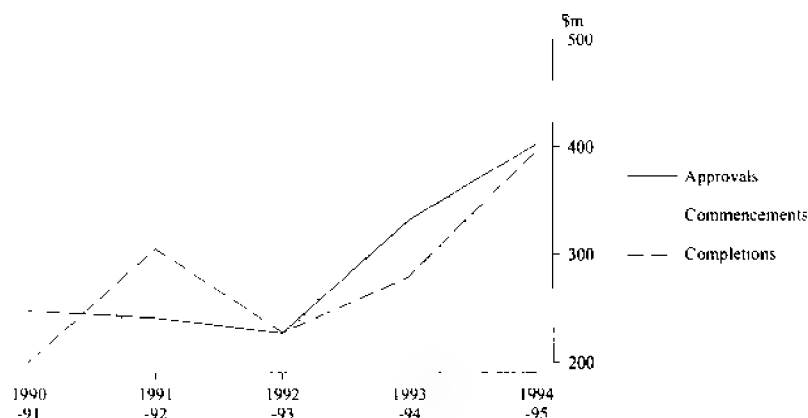
Public sector approvals accounted for 13.3 per cent (219) of all approvals.

### Value of building jobs

The value of building jobs approved in 1994-95 was \$402.2 million, an increase of 21.3 per cent (\$70.5 million) on the previous year (Table 13.5).

- The value of residential approvals in 1994-95 was \$217.7 million, up \$44.9 million (26.0 per cent) on the previous year.
- The value of non-residential approvals in 1993-94 (\$158.9 million) was almost double that in 1992-93 (\$81.1 million) and increased again in 1994-95 to \$184.5 million.

GRAPH 13.3 VALUE OF JOBS BY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8531.7 and 8752.7



**TABLE 13.4 NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Class of building	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
APPROVED				
— No. —				
New houses				
Private sector	728	961	922	868
Public sector	244	94	171	161
Other new dwelling units				
Private sector	438	416	464	554
Public sector	49	9	14	58
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>1,641</b>
COMMENCED				
— No. —				
New houses				
Private sector	669	744	1,035	804
Public sector	252	84	170	143
Other new dwelling units				
Private sector	390	353	430	522
Public sector	46	13	16	19
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>1,488</b>
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD				
— No. —				
New houses				
Private sector	363	344	505	417
Public sector	128	53	115	75
Other new dwelling units				
Private sector	158	170	129	283
Public sector	65	7	12	12
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>787</b>
COMPLETED				
— No. —				
New houses				
Private sector	599	755	856	888
Public sector	166	159	112	182
Other new dwelling units				
Private sector	344	338	462	368
Public sector	19	71	11	19
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>1,457</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8731.7 and 8752.7

**TABLE 13.5 VALUE OF JOBS BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Class of building	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
APPROVED				
— \$m —				
Residential buildings (a)				
New houses	93.2	99.0	114.3	114.1
Other new residential	37.0	28.2	41.1	73.6
Alterations and additions	17.8	19.2	17.3	30.0
Non-residential buildings (b)				
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	2.5	1.7	10.4	25.6
Shops	9.9	3.2	30.0	39.6
Offices	10.0	22.1	21.2	9.7
Other	70.8	54.0	97.3	109.6
<b>Total building</b>	<b>241.3</b>	<b>227.5</b>	<b>331.7</b>	<b>402.2</b>
COMMENCED				
— \$m —				
Residential buildings (a)				
New houses	89.7	82.5	123.5	106.1
Other new residential	32.2	26.3	38.1	67.9
Alterations and additions	16.5	19.6	18.7	28.3
Non-residential buildings (b)				
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	1.7	1.6	10.6	25.2
Shops	9.3	2.7	30.2	14.1
Offices	7.2	25.4	26.0	7.4
Other	65.6	63.5	105.1	102.8
<b>Total building</b>	<b>222.2</b>	<b>221.6</b>	<b>352.2</b>	<b>351.8</b>
COMPLETED				
— \$m —				
Residential buildings (a)				
New houses	70.4	90.5	94.2	121.8
Other new residential	25.2	39.3	36.2	35.3
Alterations and additions	14.9	21.7	17.2	24.1
Non-residential buildings (b)				
Hotels, motels, hostels, etc	8.6	1.5	11.8	0.4
Shops	8.3	5.5	7.9	8.2
Offices	9.2	8.7	27.0	119.3
Other	168.6	60.4	85.2	86.5
<b>Total building</b>	<b>305.2</b>	<b>227.6</b>	<b>279.5</b>	<b>395.6</b>

(a) Jobs valued at \$10,000 or more.

(b) Jobs valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8731.7 and 8752.7

The public sector contributed significantly to building activity as infrastructure for the Defence Forces was installed at Larrakeyah Barracks, Robertson Barracks, RAAF Base Darwin and Tindal. Further educational facilities were approved for the Northern Territory University and TAFE, Batchelor College and Centralian College. A new primary school at Woodroffe, approved in May 1994, was completed by December 1994 following new home building in the Palmerston area. A new gaol at Alice Springs and a Mental Health facility in Darwin also added to this increased activity. In late 1994, the State Square project, valued at \$170.7 million, was completed after four years of construction.

In the private sector, retail developments at Palmerston provided the most significant contribution along with the redevelopment of the Yulara tourist resort.

**Engineering construction activity**

The Engineering Construction Activity Survey aims to measure the value of all engineering construction work undertaken in the Territory. The cost of land and the value of building construction are excluded. These estimates provide a value for construction of such works as roads, bridges, railways, harbours and pipelines which are undertaken by both public and private sector organisations.

**TABLE 13.6 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY: VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED BY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Type of construction	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	— \$m —		
Roads, highways and subdivisions	54.4	109.7	65.5
Bridges	4.5	6.3	3.2
Railways	—	—	—
Harbours	3.5	12.9	0.5
Water storage and supply	5.4	6.0	2.7
Sewerage and drainage	3.4	5.3	3.5
Electricity generation, transmission and distribution	9.3	10.5	31.3
Pipelines	—	1.1	10.2
Recreation	3.7	4.5	4.9
Telecommunications	26.1	25.2	32.4
Heavy industry -			
Oil, gas and other hydrocarbons	0.7	8.8	2.0
Bauxite, alumina and aluminium	1.5	7.5	5.2
Coal and coal handling	—	—	—
Other minerals	19.2	31.1	75.5
Other heavy industry	0.6	0.5	16.9
Other	0.6	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>132.9</b>	<b>229.5</b>	<b>253.9</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8762.0

Some of the major projects during 1993-94 included an upgrade of the Victoria and Kakadu Highways and the construction of key tourist access roads and road works to

support the McArthur River mine. Work on the East Arm Port facility in Darwin also commenced. During 1994-95 roadworks continued on the Victoria and Kakadu Highways and the natural gas pipeline was extended to the McArthur River mine. The greatest increase in activity was in the mining industry which included the opening of the McArthur River mine.

### Further reading

#### ABS publications

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0)  
*Building Approvals, Northern Territory* (8731.7)  
*Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0)  
*Building Activity, Northern Territory* (8752.7)  
*Building and Construction Activity, Australia* (8754.0)  
*Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (8762.0) (discontinued)

#### Non-ABS publications

Department of Housing and Regional Development, *Housing Assistance Act 1989 Annual Report*  
NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry, *Major Projects: Australia's Northern Territory* (irregular)  
Office of the Valuer-General, Northern Territory, *Annual Report*





**Visitors observing the Centralian landscape from Anzac Hill, Alice Springs**

The Centre is the most popular region visited by overseas visitors to the Territory.

*Photo: Northern Territory Tourist Commission*



**Visitors learning about Aboriginal crafts**

A vast majority of overseas visitors who travel to the Territory do so for pleasure or holidays.

*Photo: Northern Territory Tourist Commission*

## 14 TOURISM

The Northern Territory offers many internationally renowned tourist attractions including Uluru and the Kakadu, Litchfield and Nitmiluk national parks. The Territory's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage is also becoming a significant tourist drawcard.

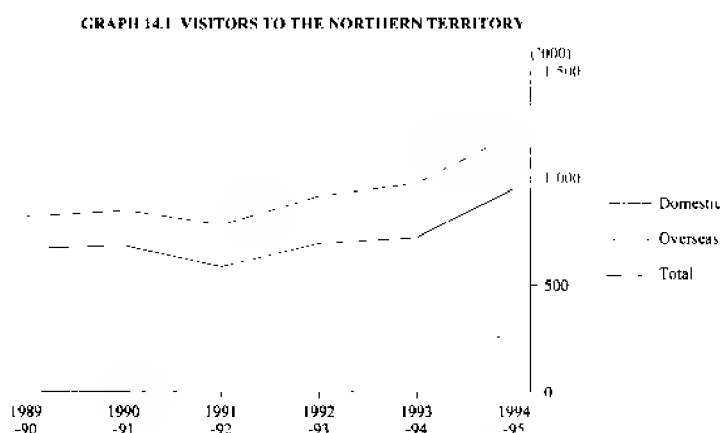
### Economic importance

Tourism is an important and growing sector of the Northern Territory economy. In 1993-94 the cultural, recreational, personal and other services industry contributed 4.5 per cent to Gross State Product and at February 1995 employed more than one in ten Territory wage and salary earners (6,500 or 11.6 per cent).

Tourist dollars also contribute substantially to the retail, accommodation and transport and services industries, among others. Total direct expenditure by visitors to the Territory during 1994-95 was \$658.8 million.

### Recent growth

In 1994-95 the number of visitors to the Territory exceeded one million for the first time, reaching a high of 1.2 million (Graph 14.1). This was about 24 per cent higher than that recorded for the previous year.



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission - Northern Territory Travel Monitor 1993-94 and 1994-95

Overall visitor figures for the Territory showed a steady growth during the five years to 1994-95 (Graph 14.1), increasing by an average 9.5 per cent per year. The overseas visitor component grew more rapidly than the domestic visitor component, increasing by an average 14.6 per cent per year compared to 8.3 per cent per year.

### Overseas visitors

#### Number of visitors

Overseas visitors accounted for 21.5 per cent (259,526) of all visitors to the Northern Territory during 1994-95. These visitors stayed an average of 5.4 nights and spent an average of \$652.47 during their stay.

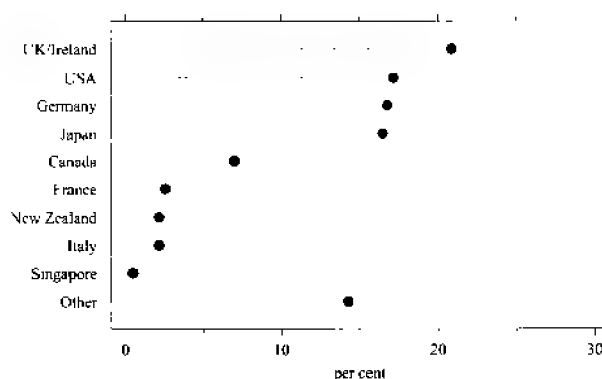
Please note that the following figures refer only to those overseas visitors who stayed in commercial accommodation (239,986).

## Tourism

### Usual country of residence

The largest proportion of overseas visitors to the Territory in 1994-95 was from the UK/Ireland (50,048 or 20.9 per cent), followed by the USA (41,207 or 17.2 per cent), Germany (40,268 or 16.8 per cent) and Japan (39,621 or 16.5 per cent) (Graph 14.2).

GRAPH 14.2 OVERSEAS VISITORS BY USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission - Northern Territory Travel Monitor 1994-95

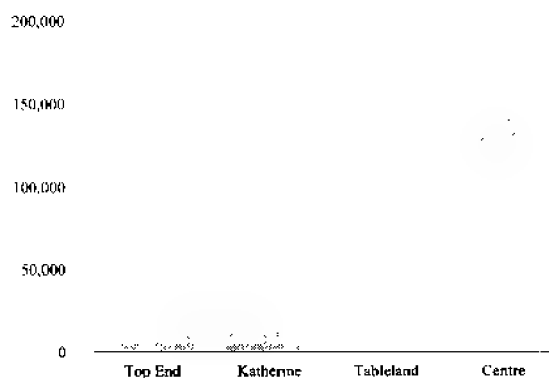
### Purpose of visit

A vast majority (231,347 or 96.4 per cent) of overseas visitors who travelled to the Northern Territory in 1994-95 did so for pleasure or holidays. The remaining visitors came to the Territory for business (3,360 or 1.4 per cent), to visit friends or relatives (2,160 or 0.9 per cent), or for other reasons (3,120 or 1.3 per cent).

### Most popular regions

The most popular region visited by overseas visitors to the Territory in 1994-95 was the Centre (186,527 or 77.7 per cent), followed by the Top End (Graph 14.3).

GRAPH 14.3 OVERSEAS VISITORS BY REGION VISITED, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission - Northern Territory Travel Monitor 1994-95

Only the Italians and Germans visited the Top End more than the Centre. More Germans also visited the Tableland than visitors from any other country while Singaporeans predominantly visited the Katherine region.

### Most popular places and attractions

Uluru National Park was the most popular place for overseas visitors with 77.7 per cent (103,734) visiting or intending to visit the Park between January and June 1995. Other popular places included Alice Springs city sights (66,486 or 49.8 per cent), Kings Canyon (53,135 or 39.8 per cent) and Kakadu National Park (50,732 or 38.0 per cent).

According to the Bureau of Tourism Research, Uluru and Alice Springs were among the top ten regions in Australia visited by overseas visitors aged 15 years and over in



1994. Uluru ranked ninth with an estimated 200,100 visitors, followed by Alice Springs in tenth place with 174,300 visitors.

## Domestic visitors

Domestic visitors are people from interstate or within the Territory who spend at least one night away from home which involves a journey of at least 40 kilometres from home.

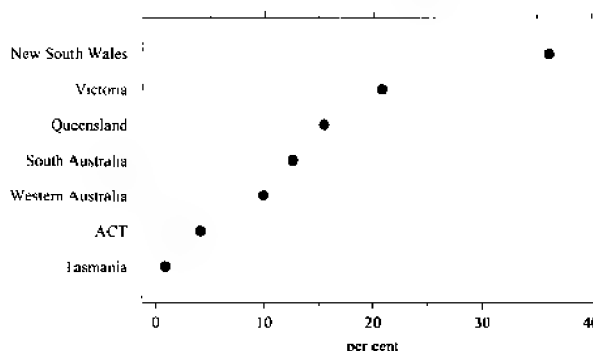
### Number of visitors

Interstate visitors accounted for 40.5 per cent (489,252) of all visitors to the Territory in 1994-95 while intra-Territory visitors accounted for 38.1 per cent (460,548). Interstate visitors stayed an average of 8.6 nights and spent an average of \$792.98 during their stay while intra-Territory visitors stayed 2.9 nights and spent \$220.39. The following figures refer only to those domestic visitors who stayed in commercial accommodation (335,543 interstate and 144,561 intra-Territory).

### Usual State or Territory of residence

The main source of interstate visitors to the Territory in 1994-95 was New South Wales (36.1 per cent), followed by Victoria and Queensland (Graph 14.4).

GRAPH 14.4 INTERSTATE VISITORS BY USUAL STATE OF RESIDENCE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95



Source: Northern Territory Tourist Commission - Northern Territory Travel Monitor 1994-95

### Purpose of visit

A majority of domestic visitors who travelled to or within the Territory in 1994-95 did so for pleasure or holidays (71.3 per cent of interstate and 57.4 per cent of intra-State visitors).

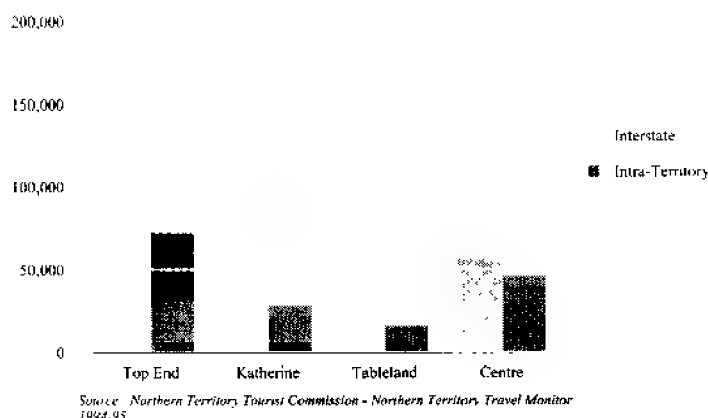
- Intra-Territory visitors were more likely than interstate visitors to travel to or within the Territory for business (25.7 per cent compared to 18.1 per cent), sporting events (2.2 per cent compared to 1.1 per cent) or other reasons (10.6 per cent compared to 5.1 per cent).
- Interstate visitors were slightly more likely than intra-Territory visitors to travel to or within the Territory to visit friends and relatives (4.4 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent).

### Most popular regions

The most popular region visited by intra-Territory visitors during 1994-95 was the Top End (72,117 or 49.9 per cent) while the Centre was the most popular region visited by interstate visitors (187,823 or 56.0 per cent) (Graph 14.5).

Interstate visitors from Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to visit the Top End than the Centre.

GRAPH 14.5 DOMESTIC VISITORS BY REGION VISITED, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95



## Most popular places and attractions

Darwin city sights was the most popular attraction for interstate visitors with 54.3 per cent (108,309) visiting or intending to see them between January and June 1995. Other popular places for interstate visitors included Alice Springs city sights (101,527 or 50.9 per cent) and Uluru National Park (100,330 or 50.3 per cent).

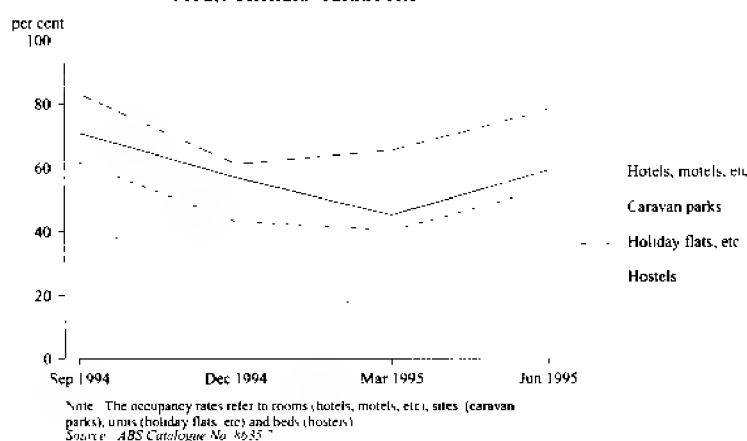
In contrast, Territory parks were the most popular places for Territorians with 70.2 per cent (46,024) visiting or intending to visit Litchfield, Kakadu, Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), Uluru National Parks and other Territory parks during the same period.

## Tourist accommodation

### Occupancy rates

Occupancy rates in the Territory vary according to the season, with occupancy rates for all types of accommodation peaking during the dry season (June and September quarters) (Graph 14.6).

GRAPH 14.6 QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY RATES BY ACCOMMODATION TYPE, NORTHERN TERRITORY



The average occupancy rate for 1994-95 was highest for holiday flats, units and houses (73.0 per cent), followed by hotels, motels and guest houses (58.2 per cent) and visitor hostels (50.0 per cent). The average occupancy rate for caravan parks was 28.8 per cent.

### Nights occupied

During the five years to 1994-95 room nights occupied at hotels, motels and guest houses in the Northern Territory increased by 48.7 per cent (376,600) to 1,149,300 (Table 14.1).

**TABLE 14.1 NIGHTS OCCUPIED AND TAKINGS BY ACCOMMODATION TYPE, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	1989-90	1994-95	Change over period %
<i>Hotels, motels and guest houses</i>			
Room nights occupied ('000)	772.7	1,149.3	48.7
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	57.0	97.1	70.3
<i>Caravan parks</i>			
Site nights occupied ('000)	n.a.	967.8	..
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	7.7	12.2	59.6
<i>Holiday flats, units and houses (a)</i>			
Unit nights occupied ('000)	74.9	64.3	-14.2
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	4.3	4.9	14.6
<i>Visitor hostels (b)</i>			
Guest nights ('000)	n.a.	501.4	..
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	n.a.	6.4	..

(a) Some units were reclassified to motels during this period.

(b) Figures for visitor hostels are unavailable prior to December quarter 1991.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8635.7

## Takings

Hotels, motels and guest houses showed the strongest growth in takings from accommodation during the five years to 1994-95, increasing by 70.3 per cent (\$40.1 million) to \$97.1 million (Table 14.1). Caravan parks increased by 59.6 per cent (\$4.5 million) to \$12.2 million, while takings from holiday flats, units and houses increased by 14.6 per cent (\$600,000) over the same period.

## Further reading

### ABS publications

Directory of Tourism Statistics (1130.0)  
 Demography, Northern Territory (3311.7)  
 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3401.0)  
 Migration, Australia (3412.0)  
 Tourism Indicators, Australia (8634.0)  
 Tourist Accommodation, Australia (8635.0)  
 Tourist Accommodation, Northern Territory (8635.7)

### Non-ABS publications

Bureau of Tourism Research, *Domestic Tourism Monitor* (annual)  
 Bureau of Tourism Research, *International Visitor Survey* (annual)  
 Northern Territory Tourist Commission, *Northern Territory Travel Monitor* (annual)



**Parap markets, Darwin**

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



**Smith Street Mall, Darwin**

Darwin city and suburbs and Palmerston account for more than half of the Territory's shopfront retailing locations.

*Photo: Northern Territory Library*

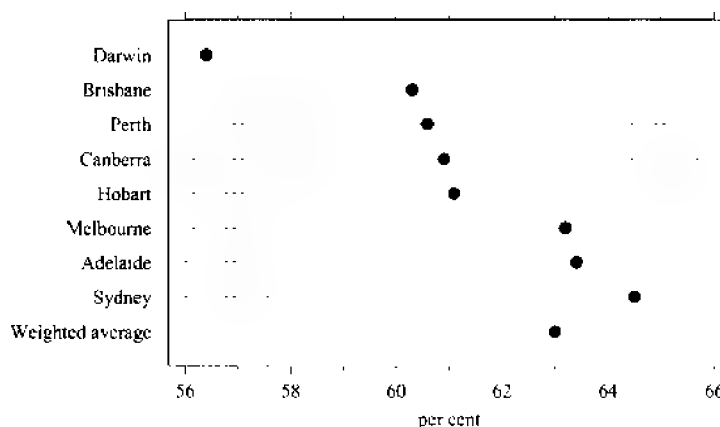
### Price increases

#### Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by metropolitan wage and salary earner households.

This 'basket' is made up of a wide range of expenditure items in eight main groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. Each of these groups is indexed separately for specific purposes or, as is the usual practice, grouped together as a summary of the changes in prices affecting weekly household expenditure.

GRAPH 15.1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1985 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6401.0

During the year ending December quarter 1995, the Consumer Price Index for all groups for Darwin increased by 4.8 per cent, slightly less than the increase for the weighted average of the eight capital cities (5.1 per cent). These increases were more than double those recorded for the previous year for both Darwin (1.8 per cent) and the weighted average of the eight capital cities (2.5 per cent).

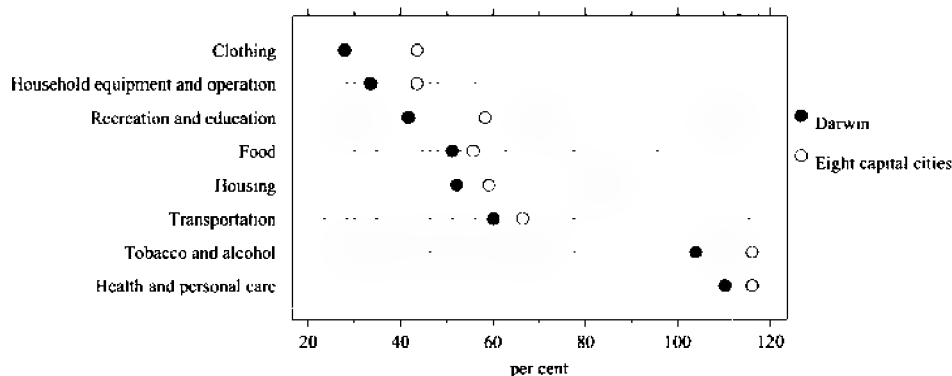
During the 10 years to the December quarter 1995, the combined rise of all groups in the Consumer Price Index for Darwin was 56.4 per cent, the lowest increase for any capital city and 6.6 percentage points less than the increase recorded for the weighted average of the eight capital cities (Graph 15.1).

- Health and personal care prices in Darwin showed the greatest increase over the period (110.2 per cent) followed by tobacco and alcohol (103.9 per cent) (Graph 15.2).
- Food prices rose by 51.2 per cent, slightly less than the increase recorded for the weighted average of the eight capital cities (55.7 per cent).
- Although clothing prices rose by 28.0 per cent and recreation and education prices rose by 41.7 per cent, these rises were considerably less than those recorded for the weighted average of the eight capital cities (43.6 per cent and 58.3 per cent respectively).

## Prices, expenditure and retailing

- Price increases for housing, household equipment and operations and for transportation in Darwin were also lower than those recorded for the respective weighted averages of the eight capital cities.

GRAPH 15.2 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY GROUP BETWEEN DECEMBER QUARTER 1985 AND DECEMBER QUARTER 1995



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6401.0

## Household expenditure

The Household Expenditure Survey provides detailed information about the expenditure patterns and levels of households resident in private dwellings.

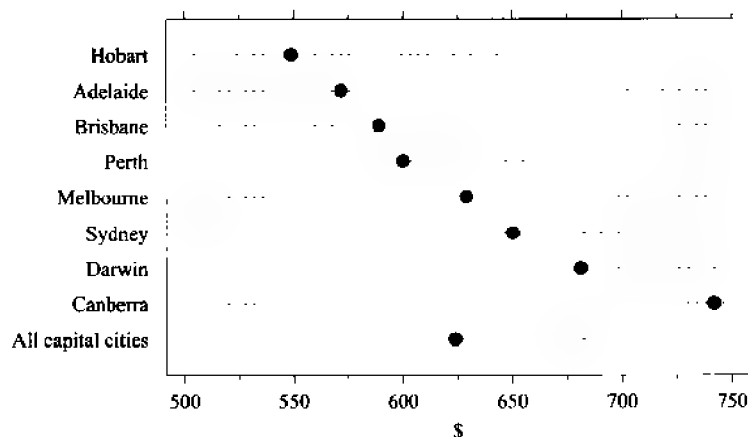
### Average weekly expenditure

In 1993-94, Darwin households spent an average of \$681.12 a week on commodities and services. This was the second highest level of expenditure by capital city households and 9.2 per cent (\$57.16) more than the average for all capital city households.

### Categories of expenditure

The largest category of expenditure by Darwin households in 1993-94 was food and non-alcoholic drinks which accounted for 18.7 per cent (\$127.06) of average weekly expenditure, followed by housing (\$113.17 or 16.6 per cent) and recreation (\$98.22 or 14.4 per cent).

GRAPH 15.3 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY CAPITAL CITIES, AUSTRALIA, 1993-94



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 6530.0

Between 1984 and 1993-94, average weekly expenditure by Darwin households increased by 45.4 per cent (\$212.79), compared to 64.9 per cent (\$245.58) for all capital city households (Table 15.1).

- The largest proportional increases over this period were in the categories of household services and operation (up \$18.44 a week or 79.4 per cent), recreation (up \$39.55 or 67.4 per cent) and fuel and power (up \$6.67 or 65.5 per cent).
- The smallest proportional increases were on household furnishings and equipment (up \$6.41 or 19.0 per cent) and alcohol (up just \$0.55 or 2.2 per cent).

### Comparison of cost of living in Darwin, Perth and Sydney

In June 1994 the ABS was commissioned by the Committee on Darwin to undertake a study of cost of living differences between Darwin, Perth and Sydney.

'Cost of living' is difficult to define and depends on a wide range of factors including lifestyle, living standard and prices. For the purposes of the study, the ABS concentrated on the differences in spending patterns and price levels for wage and salary earner households in the three cities. These two related measures provided significant insights into differences in the cost of living without being direct measures of them.

The study found that there are significant variations in the spending patterns of households in Darwin, Perth and Sydney.

- Spending on housing in Perth is significantly lower than in Sydney or Darwin.
- Darwin households spend much less on clothing than do households in Perth and Sydney, presumably due to the tropical climate which obviates the need to purchase winter clothing.
- Spending on tobacco and alcohol is much higher in Darwin than in Sydney or Perth.

The comparison of price levels indicated there are only small differences in overall price levels in Darwin, Perth and Sydney, although some significant differences emerge when major expenditure categories are considered.

- The price of food in Darwin is about 15 per cent higher than in Sydney and clothing is about 12 per cent higher.
- Darwin's higher food and clothing prices are, however, offset to some extent by lower prices for housing and health and personal care.

Overall, Darwin's prices are about three per cent higher than those in Sydney and about six per cent higher than those in Perth.

Source: ABS Comparison of Cost of Living in Darwin, Perth and Sydney.

**TABLE 15.1 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, DARWIN**

Commodity or service	1984	1993-94	Change over period
	\$	\$	%
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	71.02	113.17	59.3
Fuel and power	10.19	16.86	65.5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	90.76	127.06	40.0
Alcoholic beverages	25.36	25.91	2.2
Tobacco	9.36	14.97	59.9
Clothing and footwear	17.28	24.58	42.2
Household furnishings and equipment	33.70	40.11	19.0
Household services and operation	23.22	41.66	79.4
Medical care and health expenses	16.23	24.83	53.0
Transport	72.61	93.27	28.5
Recreation	58.67	98.22	67.4
Personal care	6.94	10.06	45.0
Miscellaneous commodities and services	33.00	50.42	52.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>468.33</b>	<b>681.12</b>	<b>45.4</b>

## Factors influencing income and expenditure

Household income and expenditure is influenced by a number of factors including the level of household income, the source of the income and the age of the household members.

- In 1993-94, Darwin households in the lowest income quintile (that is, the lowest 20 per cent of households when ranked according to household income) spent an average of \$400.13 a week compared to \$1,023.35 by households in the highest income quintile.
- Households in the lowest income quintile were more likely to comprise a lone person or one parent family (63.6 per cent of households) living in rented accommodation (72.3 per cent of households) whose main source of income was from government pensions and allowances (66.4 per cent of total income).

In contrast, households in the highest income quintile were more likely to comprise a couple with or without dependent children (67.0 per cent of households) who were purchasing or owned their own home (76.1 per cent of households) and whose main source of income was from employment (96.1 per cent of total income).

- Persons aged 18 to 64 years were more likely to be found in the highest income quintile while persons aged 65 years and over were more likely to be found in the lowest income quintile.



## Shopfront retailing

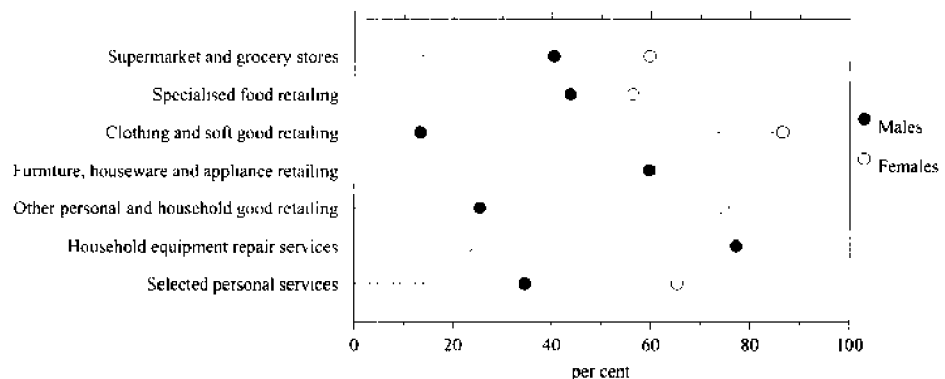
During 1993-94, the retail trade sector contributed 8.5 per cent of the Northern Territory's Gross State Product at factor cost.

In 1991-92, the ABS conducted a Retail and Services Census which provided data on shopfront retailing for food, personal and household goods and selected personal services (such as hairdressing salons, cafes and restaurants and video hire outlets).

**Employment** At 30 June 1992 there were 1,294 shopfront retailing locations employing 9,121 people, accounting for 11.3 per cent of all employed people in the Northern Territory (80,900) (Table 15.2).

There were 5,683 females employed in shopfront retailing, representing 62.3 per cent of the total employment of the sector and 16.6 per cent of all employed females. In contrast, only 7.4 per cent of all employed males (3,438) were employed in the shopfront retailing sector. Female employment was greater than male employment in all industry sectors except furniture, housewares and appliances and household equipment repair services (Graph 15.4).

GRAPH 15.4 SHOPFRONT RETAILING: EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY GROUP AND SEX, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991-92



More than half (4,972 or 54.5 per cent) of the 9,121 people employed in shopfront retailing were working full-time. While the majority of male employees (2,207 or 64.2 per cent) were working full-time, less than half of female employees (2,765 or 48.7 per cent) were working full-time. Female employees also accounted for 70.3 per cent (2,918) of all part-time employees in shopfront retailing.

**Turnover per person employed** Shopfront retailing locations generated \$944 million in turnover during 1991-92 which represented \$103,483 per person employed (Table 15.2). This was the highest turnover per person for any State or Territory and significantly higher than the national average of \$90,843.

**Largest store categories** In 1991-92, the largest store category, in terms of turnover and employment, was supermarket and grocery stores which recorded \$432 million in turnover and employed 2,827 persons. However, in terms of the number of shopfront retailing locations, the largest category was takeaway food retailing with 194 stores at 30 June 1992.

**TABLE 15.2 SHOPFRONT RETAILING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991-92**

	Locations	Persons employed	Turnover	Turnover per person employed
	No.	No.	\$m	\$
Supermarket/grocery stores	158	2,827	432	152,757
Specialised food retailing	268	1,718	100	58,056
<i>Total food retailing</i>	426	4,545	532	116,960
Clothing and soft goods	153	492	52	104,872
Furniture, houseware and appliances	90	494	85	171,578
Other personal and household goods	341	1,931	206	106,680
<i>Total personal and household goods</i>	584	2,917	343	117,508
Cafes and restaurants	108	981	37	37,844
Hairdressing/beauty salons	92	364	10	27,811
Video hire outlets	37	178	12	68,284
Other personal services	47	136	11	80,882
<i>Total selected personal services</i>	284	1,659	70	41,903
<b>Total shopfront retailing</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>9,121</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>103,483</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8623.7

## Major retailing areas

In 1991-92, the major area of shopfront retailing in the Northern Territory was Darwin Statistical Division which includes Darwin city and suburbs and Palmerston. This area accounted for 58.6 per cent (758) of the Territory's shopfront retailing locations, 59.7 per cent (5,441) of people employed in retailing and 56.7 per cent (\$535,389) of turnover.

Although Darwin Statistical Division was the major area of shopfront retailing in the Territory, turnover per person employed was highest in the Barkly Statistical Sub-Division (which includes Tennant Creek) (\$132,805) followed by the East Arnhem Statistical Sub-Division (which includes Groote Eylandt and Nhulunbuy) (\$119,943). This compares with \$98,399 in turnover per person employed in Darwin Statistical Division.

## Other retailing

### Employment

At 30 June 1992 there were 380 motor vehicle retailing and services locations employing 2,422 people. About three-quarters of those employed (1,826) were working in motor vehicle services, including automotive fuel retailing, while the remaining quarter were working in motor vehicle retailing.

### Turnover per person employed

The motor vehicle retailing and services sector generated \$464 million in turnover during 1991-92 which represented \$191,536 per person employed. This was the second lowest turnover per person for any State or Territory and lower than the national average of \$203,040.

### Retail turnover

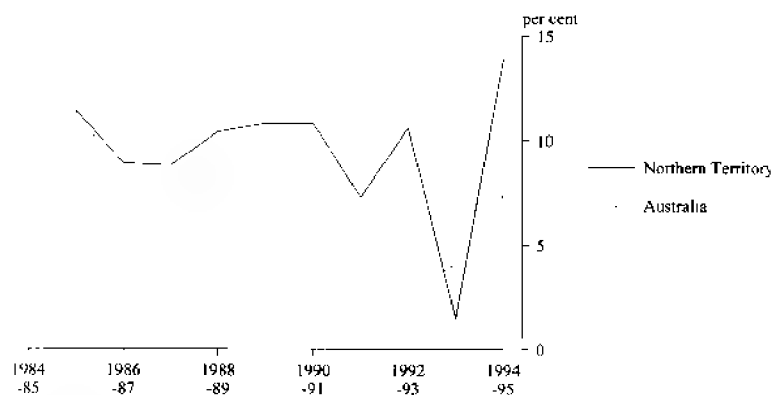
Between retail censuses, which are conducted on an irregular basis, retail statistics are estimated from a monthly survey of employing businesses. While these estimates are not directly comparable with retail census statistics, they provide an indication of current activity in the retail sector.

### Rate of growth

In 1994-95, turnover from retail and selected service businesses in the Territory totalled \$1,272.1 million, an increase of 13.9 per cent (\$155.4 million) over 1993-94. This was the highest growth rate of any State or Territory and was considerably higher than the national average of 7.5 per cent. It also showed a return to normal levels of growth following a weak trading period during 1993-94 in which retail turnover grew by only 1.5 per cent (Graph 15.5).

Over the 10 years ending 1994-95, retail turnover in the Northern Territory has grown strongly at an average annual rate of 9.4 per cent. Possible reasons for this strong growth in recent years include changing buying patterns, growth in tourism, major events such as the Arafura Games and the release of pent-up demand and a housing boom following a period of high interest rates and the recession.

GRAPH 15.5 ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL TURNOVER, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA, 1984-85 TO 1994-95

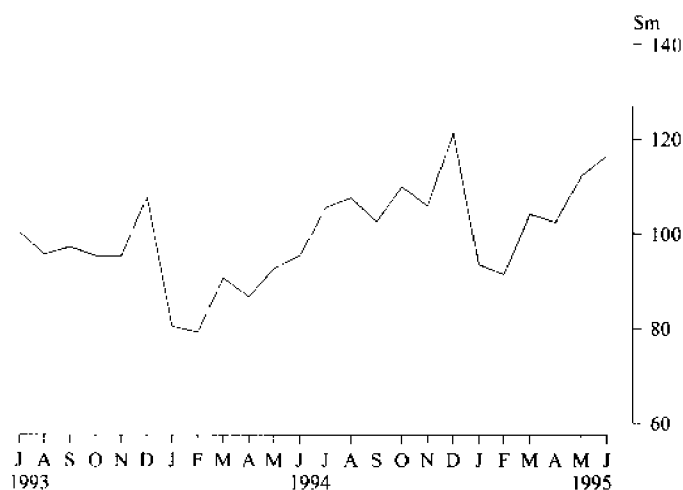


Source: ABS Catalogue No. 8501.0

### Impact of seasonal factors

Monthly retail turnover activity for the Northern Territory generally reflects the pattern for Australia. In the Territory, as for the rest of Australia, retail turnover peaks in December, due to Christmas shopping, then declines considerably over the next few months (Graph 15.6). Between May and August, however, Northern Territory retailers experience a significant rise in turnover due to the seasonal influx of tourists during the dry season.

GRAPH 15.6 MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, NORTHERN TERRITORY,  
1993-94 TO 1994-95



Source: ABS Catalogue No 8501.0

## Further reading

### ABS publications

Consumer Price Index (6401.0)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)

Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6407.0)

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)

Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0)

A Guide to the Consumer Price Index (6440.0)

The Australian Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods (6461.0)

Information Paper: Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (6527.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results (6530.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics (6530.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: States and Territories (6533.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items (6535.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: the Effects of Government Benefits and Taxes on Household Income (6537.0)

Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)

Retail Industry, Australia, 1991-92 (8622.0)

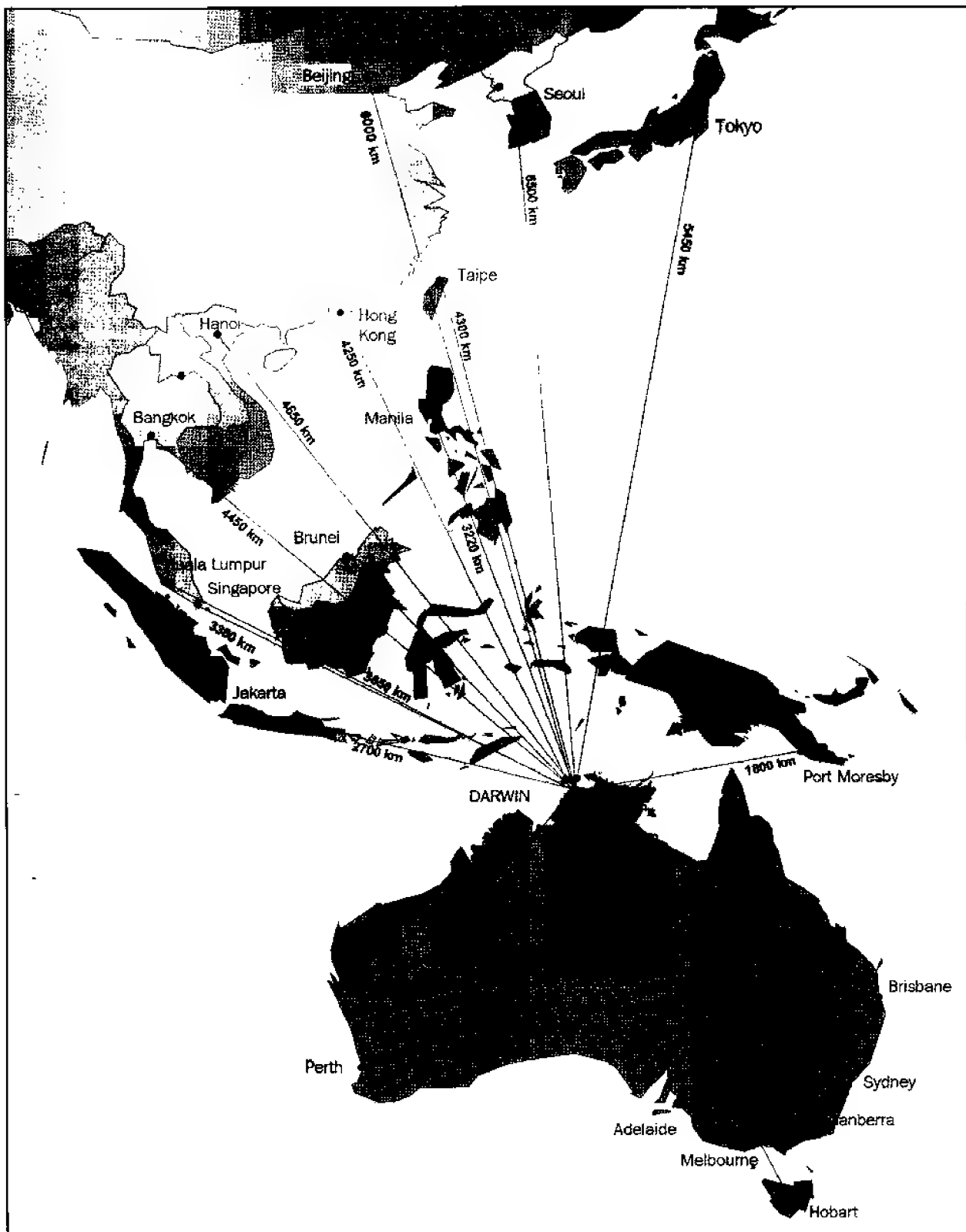
Retailing in the Northern Territory, 1991-92 (8623.7)

Retail Industry Commodity Sales, Australia, 1991-92 (8624.0)

Comparison of Cost of Living in Darwin, Perth and Sydney (copies are available from the Darwin Office of the ABS)

Auspend - a consultancy service offered by the ABS in which synthetic household expenditure estimates for small areas are created and/or extracted

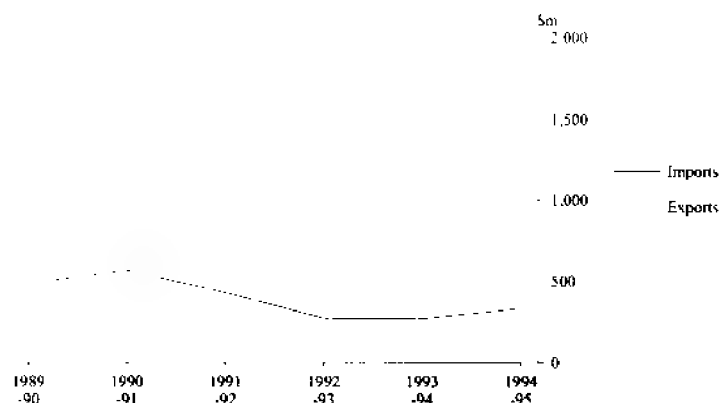




## Exports

In 1994-95 exports from the Northern Territory accounted for 1.7 per cent of all Australia's exports, down slightly from 1.8 per cent in 1993-94. Territory exports were valued at \$1,075.2 million in 1994-95, down 4.4 per cent (\$49.0 million) from the previous year. During the five years to 1994-95, the value of exports from the Territory has declined by 22.6 per cent (\$313.1 million) (Graph 16.1).

GRAPH 16.1 IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

### Exports by commodity group

In 1989-90 the value of food and live animal exports was 3.4 per cent of total Territory exports. By 1994-95 this had increased to 12.2 per cent (\$131.5 million). In contrast, the contribution of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials to total exports decreased from 23.1 per cent to 14.2 per cent (\$153.1 million) (Table 16.1).

TABLE 16.1 EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Commodity group (a)	Value	Proportion of total value	
	1994-95	1989-90	1994-95
	\$m	%	%
Food and live animals	131.5	3.4	12.2
Beverages and tobacco	0.3	—	—
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	26.4	2.6	2.5
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	153.1	23.1	14.2
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	—	—	—
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	7.8	—	0.7
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3.2	5.3	0.3
Machinery and transport equipment	4.4	—	0.4
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1.7	0.6	0.2
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	746.8	65.0	69.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,075.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3.

Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

## Trade

### Main export trading partners

The major export trading partners of the Northern Territory in 1994-95 were Japan, China and the USA (Table 16.2). These three countries accounted for 51.5 per cent (\$554.0 million) of all exports from the Territory.

**TABLE 16.2 TOP TEN EXPORT TRADING PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95**

Country	Value	Proportion of total exports
	\$m	%
Japan	208.1	19.4
China	180.5	16.8
United States of America	165.3	15.4
Canada	94.1	8.8
Indonesia	62.1	5.8
Hong Kong	61.6	5.7
Philippines	48.2	4.5
Norway	42.5	4.0
Republic of Korea	37.5	3.5
South Africa	32.4	3.0

Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

During the five years to 1994-95 the composition of the Territory's top ten trading partners changed quite considerably.

- Norway, the Philippines, South Africa and Hong Kong entered the top ten as their combined share of exports increased from 4.1 per cent (\$56.9 million) in 1989-90 to 17.2 per cent (\$184.8 million) in 1994-95.
- The Netherlands, France, Singapore and the United Kingdom left the top ten as their combined share of exports fell from 23.6 per cent (\$327.9 million) in 1989-90 to 1.3 per cent (\$14.1 million) in 1994-95.

## Imports

In 1994-95 imports into the Northern Territory accounted for 0.4 per cent of all Australia's imports, the same proportion as that in 1993-94. Imports into the Territory were valued at \$332.3 million in 1994-95, up 23.5 per cent (\$63.2 million) from the previous year. During the five years to 1994-95, the value of imports into the Territory declined by 31.2 per cent (\$150.4 million) (Graph 16.1).

### Imports by commodity group

More than half (\$172.0 million or 51.8 per cent) of imports into the Northern Territory in 1994-95 were from two commodity groups: machinery and transport equipment; and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 16.3).

During the five years to 1994-95 the proportions contributed by most commodity groups remained relatively stable except for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (down 13.7 percentage points from \$110.8 million) (Table 16.3).



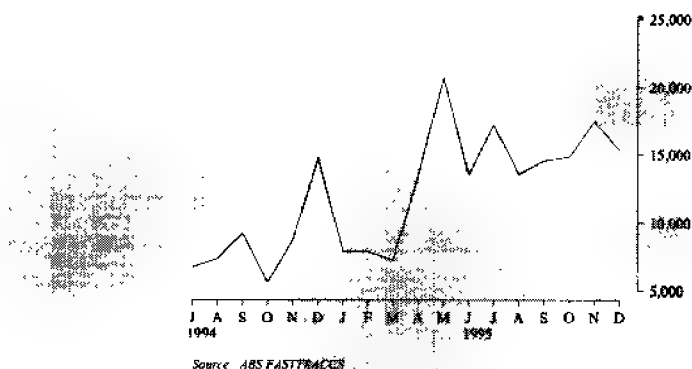
## Trade with the East ASEAN Growth Area

In March 1994 Brunei, eastern Indonesia, eastern Malaysia and the southern Philippines created the East ASEAN Growth Area, a regional trading bloc known by the acronym BIMP-EAGA. The Northern Territory already had strong economic ties with the area resulting from its 1991 Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia. At March 1996 the Territory Government had signed similar Memoranda of Understanding with the Philippines and Brunei and hoped to sign with Malaysia during the year. These agreements prioritise trade between the Territory and BIMP-EAGA and solidify the Territory's role as a regional member.

### Growth in exports

- Northern Territory exports to BIMP-EAGA amounted to \$93.0m for the first half of the 1995-96 financial year, up 77.0 per cent (\$40.5m) compared to the same period in 1994-95. Exports to these countries accounted for 15.2 per cent of all NT exports, up from 9.1 per cent for the same period in 1994-95.

NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPORTS TO THE EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA  
(CUSTOMS VALUE, \$'000)



- Exports to Indonesia and Brunei for the first two quarters of 1995-96 are almost double that recorded for the same period in the previous year.

Exports to Indonesia increased from \$25.4m in the first half of 1994-95 to \$50.7m in the first half of 1995-96. The largest increases were recorded for machinery and transport equipment (up \$6.8m to \$8.2m), mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (up \$5.5m to \$5.8m) and food and live animals (up \$5.2m to \$27.1m). Exports to Brunei increased from \$2.1m in the first half of 1994-95 to \$4.0m in the first half of 1995-96. This was due almost entirely to increased exports of food and live animals (up \$2.0m to \$4.0m).

### Growth in imports

- Imports from BIMP-EAGA to the Northern Territory amounted to \$5.8m for the first half of the 1995-96 financial year, up 10.9 per cent (\$0.6m) compared to the same period in 1994-95. Imports from these countries accounted for 3.1 per cent of all NT imports, up slightly from 3.0 per cent for the same period in 1994-95.
- While imports from the Philippines for the first half of 1995-96 were down by \$0.6m compared to the first half of 1994-95, imports from Indonesia and Malaysia were up by \$0.8m and \$0.3m respectively over the same period. Imports from Brunei were negligible.

## The eastern Indonesian provinces - a brief economic and social profile

### Economic profile

In 1992, the ten provinces which comprise eastern Indonesia contributed 12.5 per cent to Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 131,184.8 billion rupiahs (\$US 144.2 billion). Growth in Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) for the eastern provinces during the period 1988 to 1992 varied from an annual average of 5.1 per cent for East Kalimantan to 12.1 per cent for Irian Jaya. All eastern provinces except East Kalimantan and East Nusa Tenggara, experienced average annual GRDP growth (at 1983 constant prices) equal to or greater than Indonesia's average annual GDP growth (7.8 per cent) during this period. Gross Regional Domestic Product per capita is well below the national average in all eastern provinces except East Kalimantan and Irian Jaya which are dominated by the mining and quarrying industry.

Province	Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (a)	Consumer Price Index of capital city (b)	Passenger cars per 1,000 people (c)	Telephones per 1,000 people (d)
	%	%	No.	No.
West Nusa Tenggara	0.7	7.6	2.3	4.1
East Nusa Tenggara	0.6	5.5	0.7	3.1
East Timor	0.1	6.7	2.7	3.4
Maluku	0.7	6.4	3.2	7.3
Irian Jaya	1.1	8.2	3.9	9.5
North Sulawesi	0.9	9.2	8.6	7.9
Central Sulawesi	0.5	3.9	0.6	6.9
South Sulawesi	2.5	7.6	4.9	5.7
Southeast Sulawesi	0.5	6.2	3.0	4.7
East Kalimantan	4.9	6.6	10.9	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>6.3</b>

(a) 1992 Gross Domestic Product at 1983 constant prices.

(b) Cumulative percentage change in General Consumer Price Index during first 10 months of 1994.

(c) 1992 data for West Nusa Tenggara and Southeast Sulawesi; 1993 data for remaining provinces.

(d) 1993 data.

Agriculture is the dominant industry in most eastern Indonesian provinces, contributing an average of 36.3 per cent to Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in 1992 compared to 18.5 per cent nationally. In East Kalimantan and Irian Jaya, the mining and quarrying industry dominates, contributing 39.8 per cent and 38.6 per cent respectively to GRDP. Other significant industries in eastern Indonesia include trade, restaurants and hotels, and public administration and defence.

The Consumer Price Index for the eastern Indonesian provincial capital cities increased by an average 6.8 per cent during the first 10 months of 1994, compared to 9.6 per cent for Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta. Prices increased most in North Sulawesi and least in Central Sulawesi.

The number of cars owned per 1,000 people in eastern Indonesia is well below the national average of 9.0 in all provinces except East Kalimantan with 10.9 cars per 1,000 people. In contrast, the people of East Nusa Tenggara and Central Sulawesi own less than one car per 1,000 people.

(continued next page)

### Social profile

In 1990 the population of the eastern Indonesian provinces was 25.3 million, representing 14.1 per cent of the total Indonesian population. More than one-quarter of the eastern Indonesian population was located in South Sulawesi.

The eastern Indonesian provinces cover about half of Indonesia's land mass so population density is significantly lower there than nationally, averaging 26 people per square kilometre compared to 93 people nationally. Population density is highest in West Nusa Tenggara and lowest in East Kalimantan and Irian Jaya.

The population of eastern Indonesia grew at an average rate of 2.5 per cent per year between 1980 and 1990, slightly higher than the national average of 2.2 per cent. The growth rate was significantly above the average in a number of provinces including East Kalimantan with a growth rate more than twice the average. The population of eastern Indonesia was expected to reach 28.2 million in 1995.

(a) 1990 Population Census data.

Province	Population (a)	Annual population growth rate (b)	Secondary school students per 1,000 people (c)	Labour force participation rate (d)
	m	%	No.	%
West Nusa Tenggara	3.4	2.4	34.2	60.4
East Nusa Tenggara	3.3	1.9	40.3	67.7
East Timor	0.7	3.5	47.1	64.6
Maluku	1.9	3.2	63.2	52.7
Irian Jaya	1.6	4.0	50.1	63.1
North Sulawesi	2.5	1.7	61.3	52.4
Central Sulawesi	1.7	3.3	46.4	56.1
South Sulawesi	7.0	1.5	53.6	49.5
Southeast Sulawesi	1.4	4.3	50.9	57.6
East Kalimantan	1.9	5.4	60.3	55.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

(b) Between 1980 and 1990.

(c) 1992-93 data.

(d) 1993 data.

The number of secondary students per 1,000 people in eastern Indonesia is 50.2, slightly higher than the national average of 49.4. Maluku, North Sulawesi and East Kalimantan each have more than 60 secondary students per 1,000 people while West Nusa Tenggara has only 34.2.

The average labour force participation rate in eastern Indonesia is similar to that nationally, averaging 58.0 per cent compared to 56.6 per cent. East Nusa Tenggara has the highest participation rate while South Sulawesi has the lowest rate.

Sources: Biro Pusat Statistik (Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesia) - Statistik Indonesia: Statistical Yearbook of Indonesia, 1994; Gross Regional Domestic Product of Provinces of Indonesia by Industrial Origin 1987-1992; West Nusa Tenggara In Figures 1993; East Nusa Tenggara In Figures 1993; East Timor In Figures 1993; Central Sulawesi In Figures; Southeast Sulawesi In Figures 1993.

**TABLE 16.3 IMPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Commodity group (a)	Value	Proportion of total value	
	1994-95	1989-90	1994-95
	\$m	%	%
Food and live animals	0.7	0.3	0.2
Beverages and tobacco	0.1	—	—
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	9.0	1.8	2.7
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	30.6	22.9	9.2
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.2	—	0.1
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	10.5	5.3	3.2
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	29.8	10.2	9.0
Machinery and transport equipment	141.4	38.4	42.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	21.3	5.3	6.4
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	88.8	15.8	26.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>332.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3.

Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

**Main import trading partners**

The major import trading partners of the Northern Territory in 1994-95 were Japan, Kuwait and the USA (Table 16.4). These three countries accounted for 54.0 per cent (\$179.3 million) of all imports into the Territory.

**TABLE 16.4 TOP TEN IMPORT TRADING PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1994-95**

Country	Value	Proportion of total imports
	\$m	%
Japan	68.3	20.6
Kuwait	57.7	17.4
United States of America	53.2	16.0
Singapore	36.4	11.0
France	27.9	8.4
Saudi Arabia	19.0	5.7
Sweden	12.0	3.6
United Kingdom	11.8	3.5
Brazil	6.9	2.1
Republic of Korea	6.3	1.9

Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

There were some minor changes to the composition of the Territory's top ten trading partners during the five years to 1994-95.

- Sweden, Brazil and the Republic of Korea entered the top ten as their combined share of imports increased from 0.7 per cent (\$3.3 million) in 1989-90 to 7.6 per cent (\$25.2 million) in 1994-95.
- Canada, Germany and Argentina left the top ten as their combined share of imports fell from 5.7 per cent (\$27.7 million) in 1989-90 to 1.5 per cent (\$4.8 million) in 1994-95.

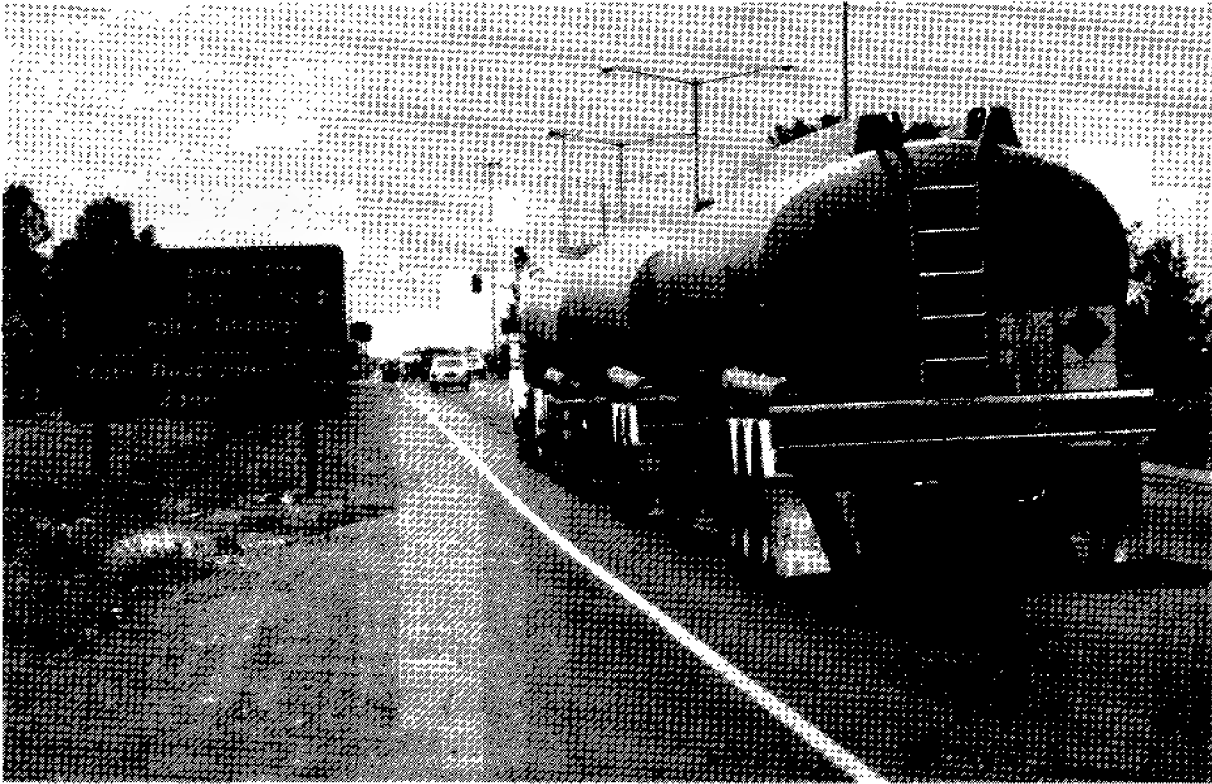
## **Further reading**

### **ABS publications**

*International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (5422.0)

*Information Paper: International Merchandise Trade and Shipping Statistics, Australia: Data Confidentiality* (5487.0)

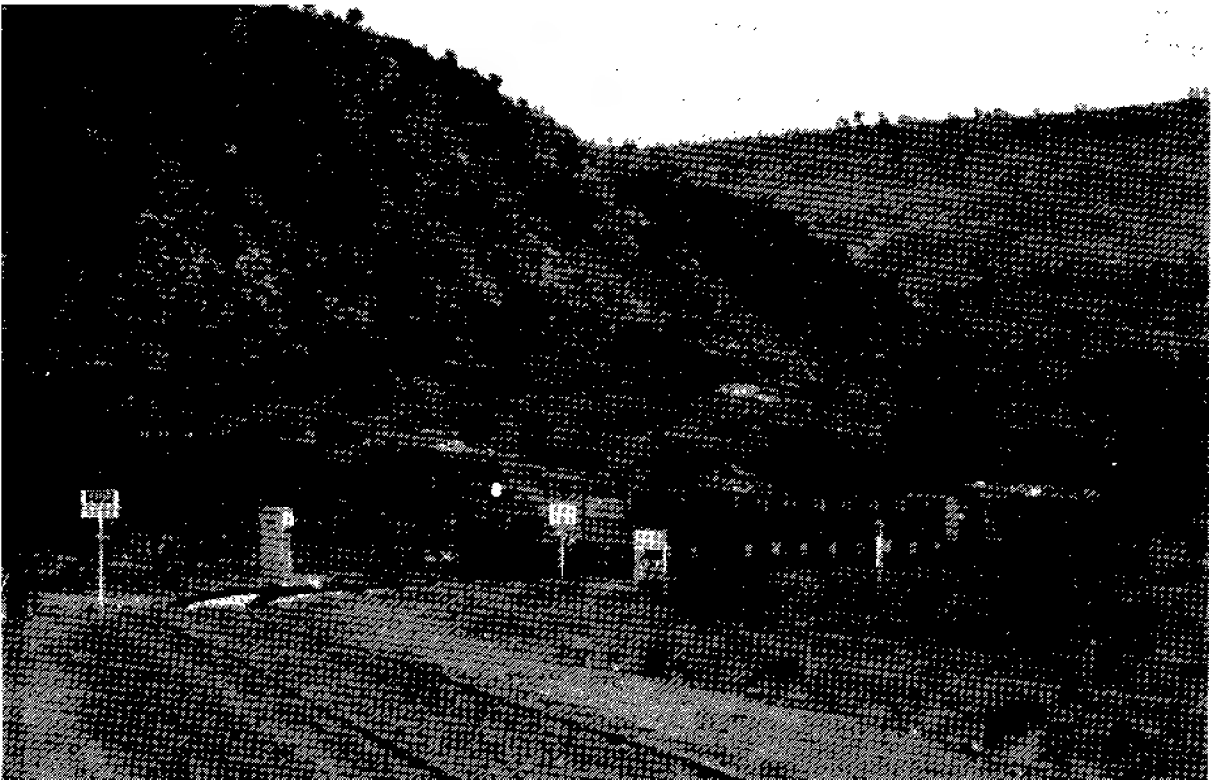
*FASTTRACCS* - a consultancy service offered by the ABS in which statistics can be provided for quantity and value of commodities for all or selected countries or States



### **Road train heading South**

An estimated 40 per cent of freight originating from the Territory and 60 per cent of freight destined for the Territory is moved by road.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*



### **Rail transport into Alice Springs**

The Territory's railway extends north only as far as Alice Springs.

*Photo: NT Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry*

## 17 TRANSPORT

The transport industry consists of businesses mainly engaged in passenger or freight transport by road, rail, water and air and associated storage facilities and services.

The Northern Territory is linked to neighbouring States by the Stuart, Barkly and Victoria Highways along with air and sea services. Barge services from Darwin to coastal communities provide a vital supply link to these areas, especially in the wet season. The railway currently extends north from South Australia to Alice Springs. However, a feasibility study for a proposed extension of the link to Darwin is currently underway.

### Road transport

#### Length of road system

The Territory has a road network of 31,000 kilometres. About 22,500 kilometres is managed by the Northern Territory Government while the remaining 8,500 kilometres is managed by local government authorities, including community government councils and associations. About 8,200 kilometres of the Territory's roads are on Aboriginal land and require a permit to use.

**TABLE 17.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY ROAD LENGTH BY TYPE OF SURFACE AT 30 JUNE 1993 (a)**

Surface of road	Length	
	km	%
Bitumen or concrete	6,018	29.6
Gravel, crushed stone or other improved surface	6,780	33.3
Formed only	4,846	23.8
Cleared only	2,688	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,332</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes roads in towns and Local Government Areas.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 1301.0

#### Registrations of new motor vehicles

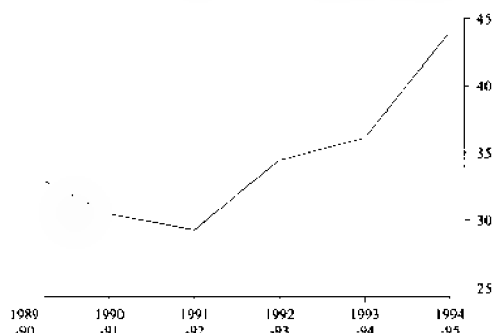
In 1994-95 there were 7,579 new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles) registered in the Northern Territory, up 23.0 per cent (1,419) from the previous year. This was the highest increase in registrations for any State or Territory and double the national increase of 11.3 per cent.

- Passenger vehicles accounted for 70.9 per cent (5,372) of new motor vehicles registered in 1994-95, while 21.2 per cent (1,605) were light commercial vehicles including utilities and panel vans.
- The remaining 7.9 per cent (602) were buses and trucks. Registrations of new articulated trucks more than doubled in 1994-95 with 98 registrations compared to 42 in 1993-94.

The number of new motor vehicles registered per 1,000 people declined between 1989-90 and 1991-92 but has increased steadily since then (Graph 17.1).

In 1994-95 there were also 399 new motor cycles registered in the Northern Territory, up 25.1 per cent (80) from the previous year.

GRAPH 17.1 REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES PER 1,000 PEOPLE AT 30 JUNE, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Note: Based on mean resident population at 30 June.  
Source: ABS Catalogue No. 9303.0, 9304.0 and 3101.0

## Registered motor vehicles

During the five years to 1994-95 the total number of motor vehicles registered in the Northern Territory increased steadily, reaching 92,000 in 1994-95 (Table 17.2). The number of motor cycles registered fluctuated over the same period before reaching 4,400 in 1994-95.

TABLE 17.2 NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTOR CYCLES ON REGISTER AT 30 JUNE, NORTHERN TERRITORY

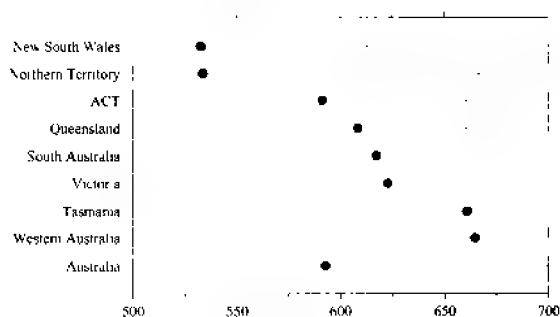
Type of vehicle	1989-90	1994-95	Change over period
	'000	'000	%
Passenger vehicles	48.2	61.7	28.0
Light commercial, trucks and buses	27.2	30.3	11.4
<i>Total motor vehicles (a)</i>	75.4	92.0	22.0
Motor cycles	4.1	4.4	7.3

(a) Excludes motor cycles, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 9303.0 and 9304.0

The number of motor vehicles registered per 1,000 people in the Territory increased during the five years to 1994-95 from 464.9 in 1989-90 to 533.6. This was the second lowest number of vehicle registrations per 1,000 people for any State or Territory and considerably lower than the national average of 592.9 (Graph 17.2).

GRAPH 17.2 NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON REGISTER PER 1,000 PEOPLE AT 30 JUNE 1995, STATES AND TERRITORIES



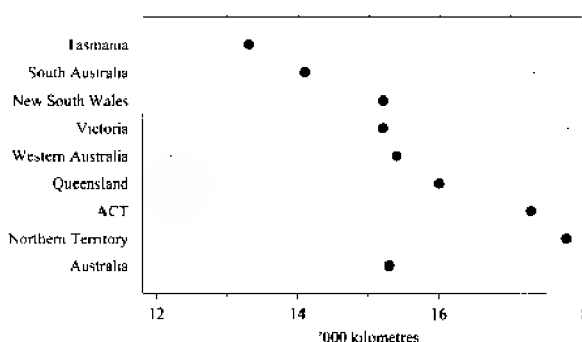
Note: Based on mean resident population at 30 June 1995.  
Source: ABS Catalogue No. 9303.0, 9304.0 and 3101.0



## Motor vehicle use

The 1991 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use indicated that vehicles registered in the Northern Territory travelled greater distances for business than those registered in any other State or Territory, averaging 19,400 kilometres during the 12 months ended 30 September 1991 compared to 15,600 kilometres nationally. Vehicles in the Territory also travelled an average of 8,200 kilometres for private purposes, slightly higher than the national average of 7,900 kilometres, and 6,200 kilometres to and from work compared to 6,500 kilometres nationally.

GRAPH 17.3 AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELLED BY STATE/TERRITORY OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION, 12 MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1991



Source: ABS Catalogue No. 9208.0

Overall, vehicles registered in the Territory travelled an average of 17,800 kilometres, the furthest distance for vehicles registered in any State or Territory and 2,500 kilometres more than the national average of 15,300 (Graph 17.3).

## Bus services

The public bus service in the Darwin urban area is provided by a mix of Government-owned and private buses operated under contract to the Northern Territory Government. All other Territory bus services, including the Alice Springs public bus service (ASBUS), dedicated school bus services and special services for people with disabilities, are operated by private contractors.

In 1994-95 the Darwin Urban Bus Service had 50 buses in service which carried 3.2 million passengers. Passenger numbers increased by an average of 2.1 per cent (60,800) per year during the five years to 1994-95. In 1995-96 five new low-floor, wheelchair-accessible buses were purchased and integrated into existing bus runs to provide a standardised service for disabled passengers on as many routes as possible. A further seven easy-access buses will be added to the fleet during 1996-97.

## Road traffic accidents

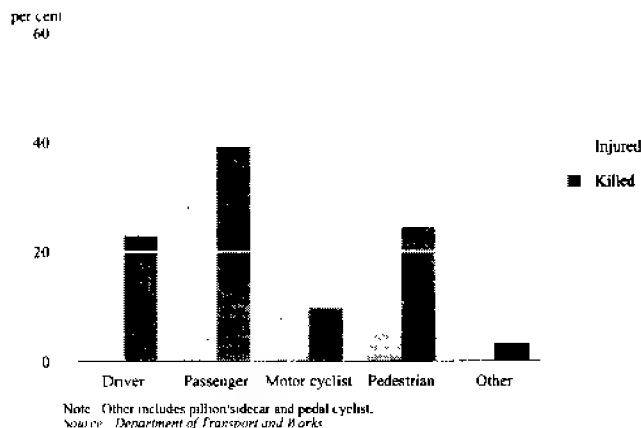
### Injuries and deaths

In 1995 there were 2,721 road traffic accidents in the Northern Territory, an increase of 8.1 per cent (203) since 1994. About two-thirds of these accidents caused no injuries or fatalities (1,849 or 68.0 per cent) while 816 accidents caused injury to 1,167 people. The remaining 56 accidents resulted in 61 fatalities which represented 6.3 deaths per 10,000 registered motor vehicles (including motor cycles) in the Territory.

- More than half (30 or 53.6 per cent) of the fatal accidents in 1995 were caused by overturning or striking a pedestrian while overturning and angle collisions were the main causes of injury accidents (335 or 41.1 per cent).
- More passengers than drivers were killed in road traffic accidents in 1995 (24 or 39.3 per cent compared to 14 or 23.0 per cent). Pedestrians also comprised a significant proportion of fatalities, accounting for 24.6 per cent

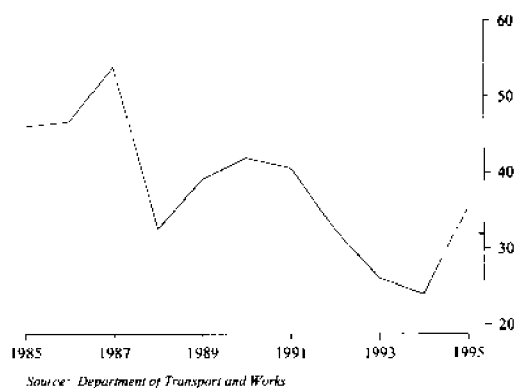
(15) of all fatalities (Graph 17.4). In contrast, drivers comprised the largest group of road users injured in road traffic accidents, accounting for almost half (555 or 47.6 per cent) of all people injured, followed by passengers (346 or 29.9 per cent).

GRAPH 17.4 ROAD ACCIDENT INJURIES AND FATALITIES BY TYPE OF ROAD USER, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1995



- More males than females were injured or killed in road traffic accidents in 1995 with males comprising 77.0 per cent (47) of all fatalities and 61.0 per cent (712) of all injuries. Almost half (22 or 46.8 per cent) of those males killed were aged 20 to 29 years.
- Alcohol-related accidents accounted for 11.7 per cent (318) of all accidents in 1995. The majority (21 or 60.0 per cent) of drivers, motor cyclists and pedestrians killed in road traffic accidents had blood alcohol concentration levels of 0.05% or above.
- Between 1985 and 1995 the number of fatalities per 100,000 people in the Northern Territory fluctuated quite considerably, declining from 46.1 in 1985 to 24.0 in 1994 before increasing again to 35.4 in 1995 (Graph 17.5).

GRAPH 17.5 NUMBER OF PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 PEOPLE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1995



The number of injuries per 100,000 people also fluctuated over the same period but declined overall from 1,016.5 in 1985 to 676.9 in 1995.

## The Port of Darwin

The Port of Darwin encompasses a broad harbour with deep shipping channels. The Darwin Central Business District is less than one kilometre from the Port's container and general cargo terminals which are served by three major wharves. Nearby, at Frances Bay, an extensive complex for the fishing industry has been developed and includes a tide-free mooring basin to serve both fishing, small commercial and recreational vessels.

Stage 1 of the new port facilities at East Arm in Darwin Harbour is scheduled to open in late 1997 and will provide facilities for handling imported bulk cargoes, livestock exports, rig-tender vessels and breakbulk general cargo. The multi-user platform will provide a bulk liquids terminal and form an integral part of the relocation of the petroleum industry tank farm from the Central Business District to East Arm.

### Vessel visits

In 1994-95 there were **1,574 vessels** which used the Port of Darwin, an increase of 95 vessel visits (6.4 per cent) over the previous year. While visits by trading vessels (such as rig tenders, tankers, livestock and general cargo vessels) increased during the year, visits by non-trading vessels (such as fishing vessels and pleasure craft) continued to decline as fisheries management policies reduce the number of fishing vessels engaged in the North Australian fishing industry.

### Cargo movements

In 1994-95 the total volume of cargo movements reached 922,797 mass tonnes, up 4.8 per cent over the previous year. Most of this growth was attributable to an increase in incoming cargo, predominantly cement clinker and petroleum products, with the total volume of incoming cargo (670,401 mass tonnes) remaining more than double the volume of outgoing cargo (252,396 mass tonnes).

The focus of the Port of Darwin's export trade continues to be the Asian region. Its dominant trading partners are Japan and the Republic of Korea which import lead and zinc as inputs to their manufacturing sectors. The rapid growth in the live cattle export market has also seen trade with the East ASEAN economies of Indonesia and the Philippines reach new record levels in 1994-95. Live cattle exports to all destinations increased by 43.6 per cent from 153,638 head in 1993-94 to a record 220,593 head in 1994-95 and represented 27.1 per cent (68,344 mass tonnes) of total exports by weight through the Port.

Source: Darwin Port Authority, Annual Report 1994-95

## Air transport

### Darwin International Airport

In 1993-94 there were 553,179 domestic passenger uplifts and discharges at Darwin International Airport, an increase of 15.6 per cent (74,464) since 1992-93.

In 1995 there were 73,033 inbound and 66,604 outbound international passengers at Darwin International Airport (Table 17.3). This was an increase of 6.9 per cent (4,727) in inbound and 4.6 per cent (2,929) in outbound passengers from the previous year.

**TABLE 17.3 SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

	Inbound		
	1994	1995	Change over period %
Passengers (No.)	68,306	73,033	6.9
Aircraft movements (No.)	1,531	1,634	6.7
	Outbound		
	1994	1995	Change over period %
Passengers (No.)	63,675	66,604	4.6
Aircraft movements (No.)	1,530	1,634	6.8

Source: Department of Transport and Communications, *International Airlines Annual 1995*

## Freight movements

In 1994 ABS commenced collecting national estimates of freight movements. Estimates for June quarter 1995 show 515,000 tonnes of freight originating from the Northern Territory and 492,000 tonnes destined for the Territory.

Of the total freight originating from the Territory, 274,000 tonnes (53.2 per cent) left by sea and 215,000 tonnes (41.7 per cent) left by road. Of the total freight destined for the Territory, 284,000 tonnes (57.7 per cent) arrived by road and 116,000 tonnes (23.6 per cent) arrived by sea (Table 17.4).

**TABLE 17.4 FREIGHT MOVEMENTS (a), JUNE QUARTER 1995**

	Origin Northern Territory		Destination Northern Territory	
	'000 tonnes	%	'000 tonnes	%
Rail	25	4.9	90	18.3
Road	215	41.7	284	57.7
Sea	274	53.2	116	23.6
Air	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total	515	100.0	492	100.0

(a) These estimates are regarded as experimental at this stage and should be used with caution. In particular, road freight information collected was limited to freight carried by vehicles over 3.5 tonnes and excluded freight moved within urban areas or over distances of less than 25 kilometres in rural areas.

Source: ABS Catalogue No. 9217.0

## Further reading

### ABS publications

*Year Book Australia* (1301.0)

*Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9303.0) (monthly)

*Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9304.0) (annual)

*Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia (9208.0)*  
*Experimental Estimates of Freight Movements, Australia (9217.0)*

**Non-ABS publications**

AUSTROADS, *The Australian Road System and Road Authorities National Performance Measures*  
AUSTROADS, *RoadFacts: An Overview of Australia's Road System and Its Use*  
Committee on Darwin, *Report*  
Darwin Port Authority, *Annual Report*  
Department of Transport, *International Airlines Annual*  
Department of Transport and Works, *Annual Report*  
Department of Transport and Works, *Northern Territory Transport Directions*  
Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory, *Annual Report*

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